

## Fighting rages around Kabul

KABUL (AP) — Government forces claimed Wednesday to have stopped short advancing opposition Taliban gunmen who had marched to the outskirts of the Afghan capital. Outgoing rocket fire was heard in Kabul and heavy hand to hand combat was reported along the front line, relief workers based in the capital said. Earlier in the day, the Taliban made significant territorial gains against heavily guarded government positions around Kabul's city limits. According to United Nations humanitarian workers based in Kabul, the government claimed to have pushed the Taliban back to Charzayab about 25 kilometres southeast of the capital. "There was fierce hand to hand combat reported near Charzayab," said Knut Ostby, a U.N. spokesman in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. Thousands of Taliban soldiers have been amassing outside the capital for several weeks warning residents and foreign relief workers to evacuate the city in preparation for a major assault on Kabul. Government soldiers set up security rings around the city, deploying thousands of troops and dozens of tanks to the front lines, officials said.

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## Bosnia ceasefire set after 48-hour delay

SARAJEVO (AP) — The warring sides in Bosnia set on a ceasefire Wednesday, after a two-day delay in which government forces grabbed large pieces of Serb-held territory, the United Nations said.

U.N. official Antonio Podaoye said the U.S.-brokered truce was to go into effect Thursday at one minute after midnight (2301 GMT Wednesday).

The Bosnian government on Tuesday refused to go along with a truce because it said one of its key demands — full restoration of electricity and natural gas to Sarajevo — had not yet been met.

Some gas and electricity has been restored and work continued Wednesday. But it appeared the government was stalling to give its army more time to capture Serb-held territory, including two key towns in northwest Bosnia, Sanski Most and Mrkonjic Grad.

Wednesday afternoon, the government said it was ready to stop fighting at midnight.

But it demanded that the Serbs declare eight hours in advance whether they would go along.

Hours of negotiations ensued, ending with Mr. Podaoye's announcement.

Details were not immediately available. Before the announcement by Mr. Podaoye, the top U.N. civilian official in Bosnia, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said in Frankfurt he expected the ceasefire to go into effect at midnight, but that the army would keep fighting until then.

Aleksa Buha, the foreign minister of the Bosnian Serbs' self-declared state, said at headquarters in Pale: "I hope both sides will respect their obligations... and that we're making a big step towards peace."

The Serb had accused the government of deliberately delaying the start of the 60-day ceasefire to capture more territory.

"That argument can certainly be sustained by what is happening on the ground," said U.N. spokesman Chris

Vernon. Government minister Hasan Muratovic insisted the truce was postponed only because a key condition was not met: full restoration of electricity and natural gas to the capital Sarajevo.

Mr. Muratovic said gas was up to full pressure Wednesday morning and power supplies were expected to improve during the day, thus giving him hope the truce would start one minute after midnight (2302 GMT Wednesday).

I hope that this is the last day of this war," Mr. Muratovic told the Associated Press.

Red Cross officials reported up to 30,000 Serbs were fleeing the area of government gains around Sanski Most.

The Serbs conceded they had lost the nearby town of Mrkonjic Grad, located on a key road that divides areas controlled by the Serbs from others controlled Muslim-led government and its Croat allies.

Serb leaders accused the

government and Croats of conniving to push back the start of the ceasefire, and delayed saying whether they would agree to a truce starting early Thursday.

Muslims and Croats are buying another day for a very well-planned and horrid action which was carried out... in Mrkonjic Grad and Sanski Most," said Nikola Koljevic, a rebel leader.

The truce is supposed to begin when it suits the enemy side for a maximum land grab," he told Bosnian-Serb TV late Tuesday.

The United Nations said the government also launched a strong offensive on Mount Vis, in northeast Bosnia. Serb shells that killed refugees and a U.N. soldier in government-held Tuzla in recent days were fired from near there.

The government also was pressing an offensive south of Sarajevo, trying to put its soldiers into position to link up with the eastern enclave Gorazde.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday shares a hamburger lunch break with a young student during a visit to a school in an outlying area of Amman (photo by Boghos)

## Crown Prince urges direct interaction between education officials and citizens

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday called on Jordanian educationists and Ministry of Education officials to hold meetings to the field where they can meet local residents and school teachers as part of a drive to help improve the educational process.

Such meetings should be encouraged since they embody the application of decentralisation and help achieve the objectives of development in various regions, said the Crown Prince at a meeting with the educational council and the ministry's planning committee.

Speaking in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi Ben Muhammad, the

Crown Prince said that holding meetings in the governorates was a step in the right direction because it leads to interaction between the ministry on the one hand and the local teachers and the local community on the other.

At the meeting, which was held at the Teachers Club, and attended by Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh along with senior ministry officials and educationists, the Crown Prince referred to obstacles impeding the educational process, citing for example the small size of some schools.

He said that the ministry should consider joining a

cluster of schools into large complexes as one way of dealing with this problem, adding that the educational process should involve the efforts of the local community members.

He stressed the importance of continued training for teachers so that their performance can improve. Teachers can perform better if they are offered homes by the ministry, especially in remote regions, the Crown Prince said.

He called on the private sector to get involved in developing technical and vocational training through coordinated efforts between the ministry and the private sector and the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

The Crown Prince also underlined the importance of parental involvement in the educational process and the twinning of private and public schools to encourage interaction between them.

The Crown Prince later visited the VTC and discussed ways to encourage students to take up vocational training and cooperation between the VTC and foreign organisations charged with technical education.

After the two visits, Prince Hassan visited the Iraq Al Amir district near Wadi Seer and met local citizens. He inspected the local schools before moving on to the neighbouring Hamedieh district.

## Israel hands over 3 more W. Bank offices to PLO

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Israeli troops evacuated three Palestinian villages on Wednesday and completed the release of nearly 900 Palestinian prisoners as part of the Sept. 28 self-rule accord it signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The army evacuated its offices in Yatta, Kabatyeh and Kharbatha, in another step to dissolve the administration that oversaw the Jewish state's 28-year occupation over Palestinians.

Palestinians in Yatta village, 40 kilometres south of Jerusalem, danced and chanted nationalist slogans.

"We are very happy to see them go. I hope this is the beginning of a better life for Yatta," said Ali Abu Qaibata, 50, a member of a municipal committee appointed by the PLO to run the town.

Israel on Tuesday handed over its military administration office in the town of Salfit, 50 kilometres north of Jerusalem to the PLO, in the first token pullback from a West Bank village.

In the northern West Bank village of Kabatyeh, a traditional border of Palestinian nationalism, Palestinians lined the street near the civil administration offices while troops bailed away military

observation towers.

"We now feel we are on the threshold of freedom. I feel that the Palestinian state is coming," said Mohammad Zakameh in Kabatyeh as he watched military trucks leave the village.

Israel has operated civil administration offices in the six main West Bank cities and 14 other sub-offices in smaller towns. The offices have overseen daily life, issuing identity cards and permits and registering population.

The Sept. 28 self-rule accord, signed in Washington, calls for Israel to rede-

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## Peace talks will be easier after Israeli elections, Assad asserts

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and Syria will find it easier to try to negotiate a peace deal after elections in the Jewish state in November next year, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said in an interview published here on Wednesday.

Mr. Assad told the Egyptian government daily Al Ahram that his country would continue to try to search for peace but he said: "It will be easier for us to act after the elections than now."

"At the moment, nothing is guaranteed because there are no indications of positive signs... Four years have passed and we have not taken a single step forward," said Mr. Assad.

He accused Israel of trying to convince the world that the peace process was continuing.

"Nothing has been decided between the two sides but the media has published stories" on the progress of Israeli-Syrian peace talks, he said.

"The Israelis want to give the Arab World, the Europeans and international opinion the impression that the peace process is on track," he said, adding that the outside world mistakenly considered the climate right for progress.

"We are with the peace process but we will not accept being taken lightly," said Mr. Assad.

"It is out the question that we will do something that we

do not believe in... if what we want is available then there will be peace, otherwise we will stay as we are."

Israel said it was astonished at President Assad's assertion.

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi said: "It is a surprising statement. Does President Assad really believe he stands to gain from a change in the majority in Israel, and it would be easier for him to reach an accord with the (right-wing) Likud party?"

Likud is neck-and-neck with the ruling Labour Party in opinion polls for the elec-

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## Expulsion crisis will be over soon, Amr Musa says

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said on Wednesday that the crisis sparked by Libya's expulsion of Palestinians would soon be resolved.

"The important thing is to solve the problem of Palestinians on the Egyptian-Libyan border. That is what we're working on now," Mr. Musa told reporters.

"I think the situation will be solved soon," Mr. Musa said.

Almost 1,000 Palestinians have been trapped in no man's land between the Egyptian and Libyan borders for over 10 days after Tripoli threw them out and Egypt refused them entry.

Egypt's MENA news agency reported on Wednesday that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is to meet President Hosni Mubarak in Egypt next week to discuss the fate of the stranded Palestinians.

But Mr. Musa said the "date of a visit by Qadhafi to

Egypt is not yet certain."

"We welcome a visit at any time especially because there are a lot of very important matters that need discussing," he added.

Mr. Musa met Colonel Qadhafi on Friday in Libya and announced afterwards he expected "positive developments" in the crisis.

Since then the stranded Palestinians have closed the vital road connecting Libya and Egypt twice in protest at their plight.

They set fire to a Libyan truck trying to cross during the latest closure which began Tuesday and lasted 26 hours until Wednesday evening.

Col. Qadhafi began expelling the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya in an attempt to swamp the Gaza Strip and West Bank with refugees and show up what he considered the failure of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace process.

## U.N. reports make sure Iraq sanctions will not be relaxed

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A U.N. commission monitoring Iraqi disarmament said Wednesday it was misled by Baghdad on weapons development and issued a sharply critical report ensuring sanctions against Iraq will remain in force.

The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) reported to the Security Council that Iraq "had been misleading the commission by withholding information," notably on development of nuclear and chemical weapons programmes.

UNSCOM is charged with monitoring Iraq's compliance with resolutions that imposed sanctions on Baghdad until it submits to complete inspection of its weapons facilities.

The report, and a similar one by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the Security Council, made it a certainty that sanctions against Iraq would be maintained for at least the next

several months, diplomats said.

UNSCOM, headed by Rolf Ekeus, said that before the Gulf war in 1990, Iraq "had secretly produced Scud-type missile engines and carried out research and development on a variety of projects on missiles of prohibited ranges."

In its effort to hide a biological weapons programme as well as data on tests for delivering chemical and nuclear warheads by missile, Iraq also gave U.N. experts "incorrect information" on some missile activities, the report said.

"The new revelations cast into doubt the veracity of Iraq's previous declarations in the missile area," it stated.

In his major six-month report to the Security Council, Mr. Ekeus gave no time frame for when his work would be completed.

He said only that if "Iraq

(Continued on page 7)

## Brotherhood leader affirms commitment to non-violent approach

By Khalil Shobaki  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, Mohammad Thuneibat, on Wednesday said the movement did not have any links with Hamas and that the Brotherhood was committed to non-violent opposition to achieve its objectives.

In an interview with the Arab daily Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, Mr. Thuneibat said that the movement was keen on safeguarding national stability and security. Opposition by the movement is targeted at the government's policies and not against Jordan itself, he said. "We have always sought

dialogue (with the leadership)... our opposition is legitimate and emanates from our deep Islamic values and traditions," Mr. Thuneibat said.

"There is nothing in the Brotherhood's strategy or policy that calls for toppling the regime. We are advocates of reform... gradual reform." "We have always said that we will adopt peaceful means to bring about change. We never believed in violence or intellectual terrorism," he added.

Mr. Thuneibat said the movement condemned violence in all its shapes. While denouncing "intellectual and political terrorism," Mr. Thuneibat said "government terrorism" was the main reason behind "extremism."

He regretted that the state-run media overstate facts related to extremist groups of carrying out violent and terrorist activities.

"It is a distortion of the image of Islamic action. It is not in the interest of the country either, especially that Jordan is known to be stable and secure," he said.

While extremism and terrorism were practically absent in the country throughout history, Mr. Thuneibat said that the phenomenon of extremist groups appeared in Jordan only after Sept. 13, 1993 Oslo agreement between the Palestinians and Israel and as a result of the "conspiracy" against Islam led by "the new world

order." He blamed what he described as the worldwide campaign against Islam for the emergence of extremist groups and accused certain regimes of encouraging these acts.

"Add to it unemployment, vacuum and the general mood of our youngsters today," he said. "They are trying to express their point of view vis-a-vis the repression of public freedoms."

In a reply to a question whether the Brotherhood would join the government, Mr. Thuneibat said there were two opposing streams within the movement, with one firmly opposed to any kind of participation in the government while the other

wing regarding it as a duty.

"We took part in Mudar Badran's government (in 1991) because we believed at that time that we should be defending the country from dangers confronting it during the Gulf war," he said. "At present we have no interest to participate in the government. We have already declared our position vis-a-vis the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty."

"It is not possible that we oppose these treaties with Israel and then participate in the government," he said.

Mr. Thuneibat said the Brotherhood's present alliance with 10 other political parties, mainly leftists, while it was constantly at odds with them throughout

history was only tactical.

"It is coordination over a common cause. It does not mean that we recognise the legitimacy of their thoughts. We believe in political pluralism as long as it is within the general Islamic framework. What we want for ourselves we want it for others too," he said.

He denied that the movement has any administrative, financial or organisational links with the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. He said that the relationship came to an end after 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"We sympathise with the



Mohammad Thuneibat The Islamic experience in Jordan is a model for all.

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**By Jean-Claude Elias**  
*Special to the Jordan Times*

**AMMAN** — Cultural cooperation is not the least of the European Union's exponents. Among the symbols that contribute to strengthening its unity is the European Community Chamber orchestra (ECCO).

The ensemble will perform this Friday at the Prince Hassan Auditorium, University of Jordan, and will hold a workshop for students at the National Music Conservatory /Noor Al Hussein Foundation on Saturday. ECCO's current tour is taking them to Syria, Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

The orchestra, whose patron is Spain's Queen Sofia, gave its first concert in 1981. ECCO members are usually European, talented young musicians, selected among top prize winners and virtuosos. The ensemble also supports well known soloists. Violinist Tasmin Little, horn player Michael Thompson and flautist Giulio Gianelli Viscardi have all appeared with ECCO in festivals and concerts.

"Europe in complete harmony," "perfectly shaped string tone," "ECCO sparkles" are but some of what the papers have said about them.

The ECCO tour in Jordan is organised by the Delegation of the European Community along with EU member states embassies and cultural centres. All proceeds from the performance will be donated to charity.

According to the official, the gang leader would install a telephone exchange apparatus in the rented apartments and connect calls from clients in Lebanon to anywhere in the world for a fee. He used the members of the gang to accept and connect the calls, paying them \$230 per month.

Police said the Lebanese man, whom they identified as Michel, started his illegal activities in 1976.

According to the official, police retrieved a telephone exchanger, telephone cables and cash when they apprehended the five suspects.

Dr. Majali said the conference, which is being held under the slogan "Nursing: the Present and the Future," will offer the delegates an opportunity to exchange views and information on the latest in the nursing profession.

Addressing the opening session was Raghdah Shukri, the new dean of the University of Jordan's Nursing Faculty, who called on the participants to give particular attention to nursing requirements of serious diseases like AIDS.

Nazih Bzour, president of the Nursing Association gave a brief outline on the nursing profession in Jordan.

He said Jordan takes pride in its qualified nurses and midwives.



Jordan has been rated as being among the foremost of developing countries with advanced nursing training systems, he added. After the opening session, Princess Alia also opened a medical exhibition on the sidelines of the conference, which was organised by several Jordanian health care firms.

According to court papers, Ahmad lured the child to the roof of his house in Jahal Nuzba, and,

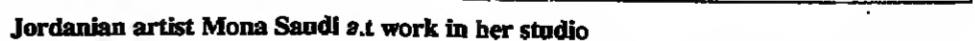
the formal charges against the defendant, whom he would not identify, include theft and murder. Accord-

witnesses. The bodies of Maha M.H. and her infant son Samer were found in the apartment which the suspect had rented.

"And this is not a finance problem," Ms. Saudi says,

"But most of my work goes to private collections

forms that marry the simplicity and coherence of



primitive sculpture with the sleek contemporaneity of abstract design. Their effect on the viewer is twofold: a feeling of womblike harmony and security on the one hand, and the excitement of a latent creative force on the other," wrote American Art critic Anne Mullin Burnham in the magazine *'Arab' Perspective*.

In both her sculptures and her drawings, the artist relies entirely on authentic, natural materials. The basic shapes—the square, circle, rectangle and cylinder—which she uses in her sculptures are replicated in

her ink and pencil drawings.

"Because I am a sculptor, the drawings come out in sculptural form; they come from the same source," the artist explains the similarity.

Commenting on her exhibition at the Darat Al Funun, Ms. Saudi said that "it seemed like a nice idea to say good-bye to Amman by showing my large experience of 30 years."

She said that although she was leaving, she was still willing to be called to "do something for Amman". In fact, she added, "several of the sculptures on display at

the exhibition are like a model for large outdoor sculptures, up to 20 metres in height."

The exhibition, which opened Oct. 7, will run until Nov. 2.

The Arab poet Adonis wrote the introduction to the brochure accompanying the exhibition. He says:

"Between the moulding hand and the moulded matter,

The chisel moves inhabited with the body's desires.

Is it another hand within the hand?"

## Major's Party pushes for huge trans-Atlantic free trade zone

BLACKPOOL, England (AP) — Britain will push for the creation of a huge trans-Atlantic free trade area stretching from Germany to the American west coast, Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Tuesday.

"Atlantic free trade will be a major objective of this government and our party," Mr. Rifkind told the annual conference of the governing Conservative Party.

It was the first of a series of policy initiatives that cabinet ministers are due to announce in this northwest English resort.

Prime Minister John Major hopes the four-day conference, under the slogan "Our Nation's Future — Conservative," will revive his government's fortunes.

The Conservatives are at record levels of unpopularity, divided over relations with continental Europe, and widely regarded by voters as out of ideas and listless after 16 years in power.

The meeting came a week after the burgeoning opposition Labour Party endorsed a sharp shift to the centre.

Mr. Rifkind envisaged an expanded free trade area

encompassing the 15-nation European Union and the North Atlantic Free Trade Association of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

On Europe, Mr. Rifkind struck a robust tone aimed at the strong anti-European streak among party activists.

He said a Labour government would accept each move toward further integration of the European Union, while Mr. Major's government will scrutinise every proposal.

"We will do so by a cool assessment of where the balance of British interest is to be found," said Mr. Rifkind.

"Either Britain will have a government that is prepared to be unpopular and occasionally isolated in defence of British interests, or it will have a government that will give in when the going gets tough."

To the dismay of the party's liberal pro-European wing, defence Secretary Michael Portillo also emphasised British resistance to ceding powers to the European Union Headquarters in the Belgian capital, Brussels.

"We must not allow Brussels to control our defence policy," said Mr. Portillo.

"It would be absurd, as some of our partners are trying, to try to merge our defence cooperation into the European Community."

"Britain is blessed with very brave soldiers, sailors and airmen, willing to give their lives for Britain, not for Brussels," Mr. Portillo, who received a lengthy ovation, said.

His nationalist message was music to the ears of those Conservatives whose scorn for what they saw as Mr. Major's conciliatory stance towards Europe led them to back an abortive challenge to his leadership in July.

Former Finance Minister Norman Lamont, once Mr. Major's friend but a foe since he was sacked in May 1993, said the tide had turned decisively against those in the party who favoured closer European links culminating in a single currency.

"They are vanishing as fast as the snow with the coming spring," Mr. Lamont told a meeting on

the conference fringe.

But some moderate Conservatives despaired at the anti-European tone and were looking to Mr. Major's deputy, pro-European Michael Heseltine, to redress the balance when he addresses the conference.

Peter Temple-Morris, a prominent member of the centre-left of the party, accused Mr. Portillo of "ignoring the realities." He said defence cooperation was a matter of inter-governmental collaboration and not for the European Union to dictate.

"It has nothing to do with Brussels. Brussels does not pretend it controls our defence policy," he said.

Labour's Tony Blair, whose party enjoys an opinion poll lead of about 30 percentage points over the Conservatives, blasted the Conservatives for pandering to anti-European sentiment.

"Nothing showed that more clearly than Mr. Portillo's extreme, juvenile and ill-informed anti-European tirade, which showed a complete ignorance of Britain's defence history and defence needs," the Labour leader said.



British Prime Minister John Major (left) applauds Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind on his speech to the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool (AFP photo)

## Yeltsin renews criticism of Kozyrev

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin has renewed his attack on Russia's Foreign Ministry, a top aide said, again raising a cloud over the political future of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

The 44-year-old Kozyrev, foreign minister for five years, has been under fire from Mr. Yeltsin and parliament over policy in the Balkans crisis where Russia's voice has often been ignored by the United States and other Western powers.

Chief presidential aide Viktor Ilyushin told ITAR-TASS news agency that the ministry came in for harsh criticism at a Kremlin meeting Tuesday between Mr. Yeltsin and his aides.

Mr. Ilyushin said several ministries and government departments had been under fire at the meeting for "serious shortcomings in executive discipline."

"Great disquiet was expressed in an exchange of opinions about the activity of the Russian Foreign Ministry," he added.

Asked if this could herald changes in the ministry, Mr. Ilyushin added: "The president is not in the habit of acting blindly in personnel matters."

Mr. Yeltsin last month said he was not satisfied with the way the Foreign Ministry drafted Russia's policy on former Yugoslavia and said "consequences would be drawn" unless the ministry improved.

The State Duma (lower chamber) has accused Mr. Kozyrev of discrediting the president and the country by ineffective performance and called for him to be sacked.

Mr. Kozyrev, while rejecting charges of not pursuing

a robust policy, has replied in the past by saying that Russia's effectiveness on the diplomatic stage has been adversely affected by the economic climate.

He says the miserable pay levels of diplomats in Russia has meant that many experienced diplomats have quit to pursue new careers in banking or in private companies. The average wage for a Foreign Ministry employee is less than \$100 a month.

Despite his criticism, Mr. Yeltsin has not shown any sign of wishing to move against his foreign minister now. Diplomats say the Kremlin chief — to whom Mr. Kozyrev is directly responsible — is in any case unlikely to make such a key change just now two months before a parliamentary election.

## Researchers look on the sunny side of life

ATLANTA — Too much sun can increase the risk of skin cancer, but a few minutes of sun a day can produce enough Vitamin D to help fight other types of cancer, researchers said.

"The exposure of only a small area of our body, such as face, arms or legs, to sunlight is sufficient to raise the blood levels of Vitamin D," reported a team of researchers from the Doston University Medical Centre. Boston University's Dr. Michael Holick called for "intelligent use of sunlight" to help people produce Vitamin D, needed for a healthy skeleton and to fight disease.

## Italy hunts for stolen art treasures

ROME — Italy launched a campaign to recover stolen art treasures when it published a catalogue of about 1,500 works, some masterpieces, which went missing during World War II. The works, many of which ended up in Nazi hands but whose current owners are unknown, include Roman statues, Renaissance paintings by Botticelli and Tintoretto and a marble faun's head ascribed to Michelangelo. Culture Minister Antonio Paolucci said the list had been drawn up 25 years ago but had remained unpublished for political reasons.

## Video dominates British film market

LONDON — Video sales and rentals dominate Britain's £1.8 billion (\$2.3 billion) film market, a report said. Cinemas accounted for only 17 per cent of consumer spending on films despite a rise in attendances. But 35 per cent went to video sales and 29 per cent to rentals, the Policy Studies Institute said in its cultural trends report. Movie subscription channels on satellite and cable took up the remaining 19 per cent. Most of those going to the movies were between 18 and 24, the report found. Eight per cent go two to three times a month.

## Ingmar Bergman to get award

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Sweden's director-producer Ingmar Bergman will be awarded the \$200,000 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in New York, the Swedish News Agency (TT) said. Bergman, who has made over 40 movies during his career spanning cinema, theatre and opera, will be the second recipient of the award, set up by film star Lillian Gish in her will. She died in 1993 at the age of 94. According to her wishes, the prize, awarded last year to American architect Frank Gehry, is to be given to an artist who has contributed to beauty in the world and to humanity's amusement and understanding of life. Bergman's daughter with Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann, Linn Ullmann, will accept the award on his behalf.

## 439 kg pumpkin wins top prize

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A pumpkin weighing in at a whopping 968 pounds (439 kilograms) has won the International Pumpkin Association's annual contest. Paula Zehr, of New York state, earned the title for the second year in a row. She will receive \$3,000 and a trip to Japan's pumpkin festival next year. The association had hundreds of entries from Russia, Japan, Nova Scotia, England and the United States. Her huge squash will be displayed at the great pumpkin festival in San Francisco later this month.

## Judge decides against probe of Juppe in housing scandal

PARIS (AP) — An investigating judge has decided against launching a formal probe against French Prime Minister Alain Juppe in a housing scandal, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Prosecutor Bruno Cote was expected to tell justice officials that Mr. Juppe had a "personal interest" in the affair, in which he and his son obtained low-rent city-owned apartments, Le Monde reported.

The newspaper said Mr. Cote decided to "close the investigation, but with a form of severe judiciary admonishment" as opposed to launching a formal probe.

A formal investigation could have led to Mr. Juppe's resignation four months after the Conservative premier took office. Juppe had been severely weakened by the scandal as well as a fall in the polls and a face-off with labour unions over his plan to freeze public sector salaries next year.

Financial markets had reeled in recent weeks because of the uncertainty, with stocks on the house slipping and the Franc losing ground against major currencies.

Despite a strike Tuesday by more than 5 million public sector employees, Mr. Juppe has held firm on the pay freeze to cut a massive

deficit. But his aides offered to talk with the unions.

Mr. Juppe last week said he and his family would move out of their city-owned apartments, the subject of a preliminary judicial investigation into whether Mr. Juppe abused power to lower the rent or pay for renovations.

Newspapers reported last week that when Mr. Juppe was assistant Paris mayor in charge of finances from 1989-1993, he had the authority to sign documents for Jacques Chirac, then mayor of Paris and now French president, which gave Mr. Juppe power over housing issues.

The conservative premier has been accused by a Paris taxpayers' association of cutting his son's rent on a city apartment and making the city pay 1 million francs (\$200,000) to renovate his own apartment.

Rent on Laurent Juppe's 88-square-metre apartment in the fashionable Saint Germain Des Pres neighbourhood was cut from 7,000 francs (\$1,400) to 6,000 francs (\$1,200) — about 30 per cent lower than market rates.

Mr. Juppe and Mr. Chirac previously were criticised for paying sub-market rent on their own apartments.

Meanwhile public approval of President

Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Juppe has crashed dramatically in the last month, a new opinion poll released Tuesday confirmed.

The monthly CSA poll for the daily Le Parisien, conducted on Oct. 6 and 7, found that Mr. Chirac's approval rating had slumped by 15 points to 37 per cent, with 55 per cent of voters saying they had a bad opinion of the president.

Mr. Juppe's collapse was even steeper. Public support for the embattled premier fell by 20 points to 32 per cent, while his disapproval rating soared by 21 points to 55 per cent.

The findings mirrored two surveys published last week.

They appeared to reflect both anger at the government's austerity budget and civil service pay restraint and the housing scandal.

Mr. Juppe has become the most unpopular prime minister after five months in office except for short-lived Socialist Premier Edith Cresson, who was France's first woman premier for 10 months in 1991-92.

The poll found that Socialist opposition politicians Jacques Delors, Jack Lang, Martine Aubry and Lionel Jospin were all more popular than anyone in the centre-right government.

## Kashmiris say 'no' to settlement with India — survey

NEW DELHI (AFP) — An overwhelming majority of Muslims in Kashmir oppose a settlement to the state's separatist conflict within the framework of the Indian constitution, an opinion poll published Wednesday said.

Seventy-seven per cent of 504 respondents in the Kashmir Valley answered "definitely not" when asked if a constitutional solution to the conflict was possible, said the survey in the inaugural issue of a weekly newsmagazine.

The new magazine, Outlook, said it was the first such opinion poll to be conducted in the violence-torn Kashmir Valley, where more than 12,000 people have died since 1989 by official count.

Twelve per cent said a constitutional settlement could "probably" solve the Kashmir problem while seven per cent answered "probably not" only two per cent thought a constitutional settlement to the conflict was possible.

Eighty per cent of those surveyed in the towns of Srinagar, Sopore, Baramulla, Bandipora and Anantnag last month said even free and fair legislative polls in Kashmir would not help in solving the problem.

On other issues, 90 per cent said human rights abuses by Indian troops were "very high," 72 per cent favoured Kashmir's independence instead of a merger with Pakistan and 66 per cent disapproved of growing Islamic fundamentalism.

Nearly 60 per cent of respondents also disapproved of kidnappings by Muslim separatists in Kashmir while 35 per cent argued that it was a legitimate weapon. Four foreigners seized by a rebel group in July are still in captivity.

Vinod Mehta, editor of Outlook, told reporters that the opinion poll was nearly called off after the researchers were stalked by gunmen in Anantnag, some 50 kilometres from Srinagar.

India has said it plans to hold elections to the Kashmir legislature in a bid to end the separatist campaign. Muslim militants have vowed to sabotage the polls, saying they will only agree to the state's secession from India.

## East Timor governor calls for army to restore calm

DILI, East Timor (R) — East Timorese Governor Abilio Soares urged Indonesia's security forces Wednesday to restore order after gangs of youths rampaged through the capital in the worst unrest in the territory this year.

Residents said youths armed with knives, bamboo sticks and stones continued to gather in several places around the city after two days of violence, but said there had been no reports of further clashes since early Wednesday when youths rampaged through the streets of Dili burning tyres and destroying cars.

"I appeal to the security apparatus to immediately restore order to Dili and take legal action against whoever is involved," Mr. Soares told a news conference, flanked by local military and police commanders.

Mr. Soares said Wednesday's rioting followed the Monday killing of a public servant named Salomão da Costa Soares.

He said a second person, Sertanio Araújo, a youth from out of town, was killed Tuesday as revenge.

Unrest in mainly Roman Catholic East Timor has taken a new twist this year with youths venting their frustration along ethnic and religious lines.

Riots have swept several cities since January with Timorese attacking Indonesian immigrants, most of them Muslim.

This week's violence was apparently sparked by local gang warfare between youths who support Indonesian rule and those who oppose it, however.

Police chief Andreas Sugianto told Reuters earlier six youths had been arrested and 12 people badly injured, including two police officers. He told the news conference those involved would be arrested if they did not turn themselves in.

"We know where all the offenders live and only need to summon them and if they don't answer we will come

for them," he told the conference.

Mr. Soares added: "If they don't want to come after being summoned three times, then we can play rough."

Residents said scores of youths and troops were still locked in stand-offs in several parts of the capital.

"We can't go out because all the streets are blocked by the youths. The situation is tense," one resident said.

Chief Sugianto said youths took three police officers hostage, one a captain, releasing them after an unknown number of Timorese were freed from detention by the military.

Chief Sugianto told the news conference some people had been detained, but did not say how many or why.

Residents said the situation had eased by the afternoon, but others said gangs continued to blockade some neighbourhoods, stopping cars and blocking public or government vehicles.

## Ramos seeks return of Filipino general

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday he was using gentle persuasion rather than military muscle to bring back a former top army general who defected to the Communist rebels.

Mr. Ramos said he had asked defence officials and colleagues of retired army regional Commander Raymundo Jarque "to help in persuading him to not choose the life of an insurgent."

Gen. Jarque, facing charges of corruption and attempted murder, announced in a statement Tuesday he was joining the Marxist New People's Army (NPA) because he could not expect justice from a "corrupt" judiciary.

Mr. Ramos told his weekly news conference that he met Gen. Jarque's son, an army captain, Tuesday night and told him the government was using "combined persuasive efforts" to persuade the former general to return.

The military at the same

time ordered its troops to avoid combat with Gen. Jarque.

"We will not do anything to jeopardise his safety," said Brigadier-General Renato Garcia, chief of the military command in the central Visayas region where Gen. Jarque announced his defection.

Gen. Jarque, who won dozens of medals in combat with rebels during a 33-year army career, was facing charges of corruption, theft and attempted murder when he retired last year.

The charges stemmed from his alleged unauthorised use of army vehicles and equipment, the supposed theft of two tonnes of prawns from a businessman's fishpond during a raid and the ambush of a state prosecutor investigating the cases.

Human rights groups have linked him to military abuses, including the bombing of NPA strongholds on Negros Island in 1989, which forced 35,000 villagers to flee their homes.

Hundreds of them died in evacuation camps later.

Gen. Jarque accused a "powerful elite" of rigging the charges against him and urged soldiers to join him in overthrowing the government.

His defection shocked the government and the military.

Mr. Ramos said there was nothing he could do to help Gen. Jarque with the cases against him because they were already in the courts.

"If there is anything that we can do here, we'll be happy to do it but if they're in the courts we cannot make decisions ourselves," he said.

Communist leaders said they were studying Gen. Jarque's decision to join them, because of his "blood debts" to the people.

The NPA has been fighting for a Marxist state for 26 years and was seen as a major security problem until the collapse of communism in Europe and internal bickerings decimated its ranks.

ATLANTA — Too much sun can increase the risk of skin cancer, but a new study shows that a little sun can help fight other types of cancer, researchers say.

"The exposure of only a small area of our body to sunlight is sufficient to raise the blood levels of Vitamin D," reported a team of researchers from the Dartmouth Medical Center, Boston University, and the University of Michigan. Dr. Michael Holick called for "moderate use of sunlight" to help people with Vitamin D deficiency, which can lead to a weak skeleton and a high risk of disease.

### Italy hunts for stolen art treasures

ROME — Italy launched a campaign to recover art treasures when it published a catalogue of 1,500 works, some of which were stolen during World War II.

The works, many of which were looted from museums and private collections, were listed in a book titled "The Italian Cultural Heritage." The book, published by the Italian Ministry of Culture, lists the names of the owners of the works and the locations where they were found.

### Video dominates British film market

LONDON — Video and rentals are dominating the British film market, according to a new report.

The report, published by the British Film Institute, shows that video and rentals account for 70 per cent of the film market, while cinema attendance has fallen to its lowest level in 20 years.

### Ingmar Bergman to get award

STOCKHOLM — Ingmar Bergman, the Swedish film director, has been awarded the 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature.

The prize, which is awarded annually to a living author, was given to Bergman for his "profound and penetrating insight into the human condition."

### 439 kg pumpkin wins top prize

SAN FRANCISCO — A pumpkin weighing 439 kilograms (968 pounds) won the top prize at the 1995 World Championship Pumpkin Festival.

The pumpkin, grown by a farmer in California, was the heaviest ever recorded in the world.

# World News

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Mexican rescue workers and soldiers dig for survivors through the rubble of the Hotel Costa Real in the port of Manzanillo in the western coastal state of Colima (AFP photo)

## Quake claims at least 33 lives in Mexico

MANZANILLO, Mexico (AP) — Bernadette McCafferty ran screaming through the hall in her pajamas when the Radisson Hotel began to sway in a powerful earthquake.

"It felt like being in a boat with high waves," said the Canadian tourist from Oakville, Ontario. "I felt like I was dead."

The magnitude-7.6 quake struck Mexico's Pacific coast Monday morning, killing at least 33 people and injuring 90 as it toppled houses and hotels, cracked bridges, split highways and cut power and phone services.

In Manzanillo, a popular resort 330 miles west of Mexico City, the eight-story Costa Real Hotel was reduced to rubble. Rescuers pulled 15 bodies and 10 injured people from the ruins, but resumed their search Tuesday only after dawn because there had been no power overnight.

"Vice Adm. Ambrosio Ariza Lopez, a director of search operations, told the Associated Press more bodies were likely to be uncovered."

"We really don't know exactly how many people died in the hotel," Adm. Ariza Lopez said Tuesday.

as workers discovered the 15th body, that of a woman who was 8 months pregnant. Her 3-year-old was still missing.

Hotel manager Alfonso Ramirez Ochoa said 33 of the hotel's 57 guests were missing along with 17 workers. But he said he held out little hope even as police dogs combed the mounds of crumbled cement.

Rescue workers used blue-and-white surgical masks also used pickaxes and sifted through jumbled clothing, mattresses and torn sofas. Cots laid out with intravenous tubes lay nearby in the event survivors were found.

Red Cross workers and sailors from the nearby port built a temporary morgue on the lawn next to the hotel pool, laying sheet-covered corpses side by side.

Just outside Manzanillo, a building housing the state judicial police collapsed, killing a police commander and seven other people, said state spokesman Mario Cardenas.

"The injured are everywhere," said Livia De La Garza, a textile shop owner in Manzanillo.

After reporting up to 45 deaths in the neighbouring

state of Jalisco, authorities there revised their estimate late Monday, saying they had counted some victims several times and only 10 people had died.

There was no immediate way to confirm the death toll. Many people believe that the Mexican government purposely underestimated the number of people killed in a 1985 quake, which officially killed more than 6,000. Independent estimates put the death toll at more than 10,000.

The states of Jalisco and Colima, where Manzanillo is, contain some of Mexico's most popular beach resorts.

The area shook violently after the 9:37 a.m. quake (1537 GMT), which was centred three miles (five kilometres) offshore near the border between the two states — 15 miles (24 kilometres) east-southeast of Manzanillo.

"It was scary because it was so long," said Horenzina Magana, stepping off a plane in Los Angeles. "I just toughed it out. It lasted more than a minute."

Skyscrapers in Mexico City swayed violently and people bolted from homes and workplaces. Power and phone service was interrupted

for about an hour. The quake was felt as far north as Dallas and Oklahoma City.

Some roads and bridges were heavily cracked or damaged, and the quake ripped fissures as wide as a foot in the main coastal highway.

Telephone service and power were cut to many areas and authorities canceled flights to Manzanillo, citing reports of damage to the runway.

Before leaving for Washington for a meeting with President Bill Clinton, President Ernesto Zedillo sent five cabinet members to assess damage and ordered military workers to coordinate an emergency response.

The quake was the second powerful tremor to hit Mexico in a month — a magnitude-7.3 quake on Sept. 14 killed five people in southern Mexico.

Most Mexican quakes occur along a long swath of coastline from the Guatemalan border to near Puerto Vallarta, where the Cocos Plate of the Earth's crust is thrusting under the North American Plate.

## Suu Kyi calls for stronger labour unions in Burma

MANILA, Philippines (Agencies) — Burmese dissident leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi Tuesday called on her countrymen to organise independent unions to free themselves from "slavery" under her country's military rulers.

In a videotaped message to a meeting of world trade unionists in Manila, Ms. Suu Kyi accused the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the military junta that rules Burma, of systematically using forced labour in joint venture projects with multinational corporations.

She also warned foreign investors against taking part in such joint ventures, saying the projects help set back democratisation in Burma.

"All we are saying is that investments should be made in the right way at the right time," she said. "In the long run, it will be the businessmen themselves who will be hurt by investing at the wrong time."

Earlier, Amnesty International reported that prisoners in Burmese labour camps were dying by the

hundreds from brutal conditions.

The London-based human rights group said the death rate in some camps, which hold about 500 prisoners used in construction projects, exceeds 50 per cent.

In one camp near the central city of Mandalay, it said, 400 prisoners died in a month's time.

"Our greatest resource, our greatest asset, is our people. We need organisations to protect the rights of our people," said Mrs. Suu Kyi.

Her message, the latest attack against the regime of Gen. Saw Maung since her release from house arrest in July, was received with loud applause on the second day of the conference organised by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Among the participants were trade union leaders from Japan, Denmark, Sweden, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Australia, United States and the Philippines.

Conference spokesman Alexander Aguilar said the conference was a show of solidarity with the workers

of Burma and their clandestine trade union, the Federation of Trade Unions of Burma.

The federation went underground after the military regime crushed pro-democracy protesters in 1988 and stopped Ms. Suu Kyi from assuming the presidency she won in an election.

Ms. Suu Kyi, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, was placed under house arrest in 1989. She was released last July in what was seen as the SLORC's attempt to attract foreign investors and recognition by the international community.

Ms. Suu Kyi has been reappointed general secretary of the party she helped found seven years ago and which went on to sweep a 1990 election, party sources said Wednesday.

Ms. Suu Kyi was reappointed general secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD) at a party meeting Tuesday, said the sources, who declined to be identified.

Two other senior party members released from prison in March were appointed vice-chairmen.

Tin Oo, a former senior military officer who founded the party with Ms. Suu Kyi in 1988, was appointed vice-chairman as was Kyi Maung. He led the party to its May 1990 election victory, after Ms. Suu Kyi and Mr. Tin Oo were imprisoned, until he ion was imprisoned later that year.

The NLD was formed in September 1988, days after the military crushed a democracy uprising and set up the ruling SLORC. Less than a year later Ms. Suu Kyi was placed under house arrest for "endangering the state".

Despite her detention, the NLD swept 392 of 485 parliamentary seats in a May 1990 election, but the SLORC ignored the result and instead launched a sweeping crackdown on all opposition, imprisoning many senior NLD members at the national and local level.

The rump of the party, led by Aung Shwe, formally expelled Ms. Suu Kyi after pressure from the SLORC in December 1991, shortly after she won the Nobel Peace Prize. Aung Shwe remains NLD chairman, the party sources said.

## Hong Kong's last colonial legislature sworn in

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's last colonial legislature — and its most democratic — was sworn into office Wednesday, just 629 days before Beijing resumes sovereignty over the territory.

The ceremony for the 60-seat chamber Beijing has vowed to abolish in 1997 came only hours before Governor Chris Patten was set to give his annual policy speech.

"I, Allen Lee Peng-Fei, solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will uphold the law of Hong Kong and that I will conscientiously and truly serve the people of Hong Kong as a member of the Legislative Council," said Mr. Allen Lee, the longest serving member and chairman of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Allen Lee's business-oriented Liberal Party is the second largest grouping in the council with 10 elected members.

The Democratic Party, the council's largest with 19 councillors, is the flagship of the pro-democracy camp and its leaders have been denounced as subversives by Beijing.

Mr. Allen Lee was followed by 58 other councillors in the brief but solemn ceremony. One member was out of the territory.

China bitterly opposed democratic reforms enacted last year which culminated last month in the first fully elected legislature in Hong Kong's history. It has sworn to dismantle the council and replace it with one of its own design.

A more immediate challenge will be working out the new legislature's relationship with the government.

Until the last session, the council included three senior government officials and 18 appointed members who could act as the government's eyes and ears and, in the case of the officials at least, could cast crucial votes for the government.

"Can (Patten) work with this Legco now?" Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, said in a radio interview earlier Wednesday.

"What will be do, what will be say as to enhancing cooperation between the government and the Legislative Council."

## 1 killed as Indonesian troops open fire on rioting quake survivors

SUNGAIPENUH, Indonesia (AP) — Troops opened fire Wednesday to quell a riot by about 1,000 earthquake survivors demanding custody of four men who kidnapped and reportedly raped a teenage girl, officials said.

A 40-year-old man was killed in the shooting. The riot occurred in the town of Semur, five kilometres (3 miles) from Sungaipenuh, the epicenter of Saturday's earthquake that killed at least 100 people and injured more than 1,700.

The four men armed with guns apparently tried to rob homes left unguarded after the earthquake, but when that failed, abducted the girl, said Lt. Supandi, a military spokesman.

On being spotted by local residents, the kidnappers rushed into the police station to avoid being lynched, witnesses said. Residents said the girl was raped, but that could not be immediately confirmed.

As the mob grew, anger at the miserable conditions since the disaster was directed against the police for protecting the culprits, Lt. Supandi said.

"The menacing mob came with sticks, stones and any-

thing they could lay their hands on to attack the police station," he said. They broke windows and doors of the station before army soldiers opened fire in the air.

It was not clear how the victim, identified as Mat Rusdi, was shot. He was hit by a bullet under the chin.

Area military commander Col. Muchdi promised to identify and punish the soldier who shot into the crowd. He said the riot would also be investigated.

Two reporters for a Jakarta magazine were beaten up by the crowds, who also set fire to the kidnappers' confiscated van at the police station, officials said.

It was not immediately clear if any more people were injured.

The shooting occurred only about 30 minutes after President Suharto left the area following a brief visit to console the quake victims.

Earlier Wednesday, officials riding vans fitted with loudspeakers declared the remote area on Sumatra island safe from further aftershocks.

"You can now go back to your home, without fear, because there will be no more big quakes to harm

you," Col. Bambang Sukowirno, the top official of the district, announced.

He said geologists have confirmed that "even the small (quakes) would hardly be noticeable."

Tens of thousands of people were homeless after about 10,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed by the magnitude-7 quake near Sumatra's southwestern coast.

So far only 80 bodies have been recovered and buried in mass graves, but officials say the toll will be at least 100.

After surviving the quake and reliving the terror by daily aftershocks, residents are unwilling to go back to those homes still standing despite the official assurances.

"I would rather remain here under this tent, where it is safe if a quake strikes again," said Wiranti, 35.

Survivors also complained of food and medicine shortages. Officials blamed the shortages on the remoteness of the area, which is an eight-hour drive from the nearest big town. Roads, power and telephone lines have also been damaged by the quake.

## Russian Orthodox Church urges draftees into army

MOSCOW (AP) — Head of the Russian Orthodox Church Tuesday urged young draftees into the ranks of the army, appealing to their honour as "Orthodox warriors."

The unusual appeal from Patriarch Alexy II was a show of spiritual support for the beleaguered armed forces, which is plagued by widespread draft-dodging.

The army's regular autumn draft is now under way. The defence Ministry's goal is 224,000 new recruits by the end of the year.

Young recruits have long feared the brutal bazing common in the Russian army.

Harsh living conditions stemming from post-Soviet budget cuts and the Kremlin's ten-month old war in Chechnya have added to the general aversion to military service.

"The time has come for you to join the army ranks to serve the motherland, to protect and defend it from external and internal enemies and strengthen its might," the patriarch said.

"We feel sure that you won't compromise the honour and dignity of the Orthodox warrior."

The patriarch's statement was a sign of the warm relations the church and the army have established since the 1991 Soviet collapse. It was also a rare boost to an armed forces long under fire for its reluctance to create a professional, all-volunteer army.

"I hope that the army service, with all its difficulties, will help your spirit mature," the patriarch said. "Your army service will help establish deeper ties between it and the church for the benefit of Russia and its people."

In more secular quarters, however, the draft call came under sharp fire.

"They just need new soldiers as cannon fodder," reformist lawmaker Ella Pamylova told a news conference.

She sharply questioned the wisdom of increasing the armed forces ranks at a time when the army can barely feed its soldiers.

"Recruits have nothing to eat and wear torn boots," she said. "There is no sense in filling up the barracks with additional hungry soldiers."

A chronic shortage of funds has left many Russian soldiers and their families on the verge of starvation.

Valentin Panichev, the top military prosecutor, warned recently that a tragedy like the malnutrition deaths of four naval cadets in 1993 could be repeated. Some garrisons have even consumed all their emergency rations, he said.

The top brass has resisted personnel cutbacks, pressing instead for a bigger draft and longer compulsory service.

They argue that the army's dwindling strength undermines its combat readiness and say the Defence Ministry can't afford to pay contract soldiers.

Heedful of the ministry's complaints, parliament last spring extended the length of the compulsory military service to two years from 18 months.



This photo taken from a satellite transmission shows hurricane Roxanne which is close to the Yucatan peninsula town of Cozumel, Mexico (AFP photo)

## Jordan Times

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### Unions on political stage

IN HIS ADDRESS to the Royal Medical Services on Tuesday, His Majesty King Hussein raised a very important constitutional issue about the legality of compulsory membership in professional associations. "It is probably wrong to force any physician to join the medical association," the King said. "And I wonder if such a regulation is constitutional or democratic." On this specific point, the Constitution has this to say in Article 23 (2): The State shall protect work and shall legislate thereon on the basis of the following principles, inter alia, the organisation of free unions within the limits of the law." As we read this provision, the establishment of unions and therefore professional associations must be free in the sense that membership therein must be free to all those who wish to join.

If this constitutional reference is not enough or clear enough, we may still refer to international norms as reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) for guidance. Article 20(2) of this declaration is quite explicit and unequivocal. It reads as follows: "No one may be compelled to belong to an association." These words are compelling enough against forcing any one to belong to an association or union. If the UDHR lacks legal effect and therefore is not binding, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) has codified this principle of the declaration and gave it the force of law for all states which ratified it including Jordan which became a state party in 1978.

Accordingly and on the strength of the Constitution and the ICCPR, which has the effect of law in the country, indeed no one may be forced to belong to an association.

This construction of the municipal and international law, however, does not suggest that the regulation of any profession by an association is illegal. Indeed all professions need to be regulated in order to ensure that physicians, engineers and lawyers, to mention only a few, meet certain qualification requirements before they may practise their profession.

Professional associations would continue therefore to play an indispensable role in the sense that they have to articulate and adopt the necessary criteria for professionals before they may engage in their work. That is why professions like the lawyers and physicians continue to have their own respective associations worldwide.

An equally vexing issue is whether professional associations can engage in politics over and above their immediate concerns. As far as we can understand our Constitution and the relevant international treaties, any one may freely express his opinion including a group of people assembled lawfully to exercise a legal purpose. This means that actions called for by any such association must be consistent with the laws of the land. In other words, professional associations may indeed address political issues and take appropriate decision or action provided it is in conformity with the law. What is consistent with the law and what is not is something only a court of law may rule on. On the issue of normalisation per se, we believe that our courts would declare illegal any action or policy that contravenes the peace treaty with Israel.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Reflecting on the imminent Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit a writer in Al Ra'i daily said Jordanians are divided over the prospects of the event. Some believe that the conference will not achieve anything at all, while others reckon it will mark the beginning of prosperity for Jordan and the whole region, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer noted that the public and private sectors are preparing a realistic agenda for discussion by the international delegates and while it is not possible to predict results, it is important not to live in a dream-world. Noting the conference will offer an opportunity to illuminate Jordan's investment climate for the rest of the world, the writer said that investors normally look for lucrative businesses, cheap labour and skilled workers, in addition to markets for their products. He added that investors do not have "pots of money" to squander and Jordanians should realise that only by offering the right incentives and creating an opportune climate will investment of capital be encouraged. Referring to the sprucing of streets and the beautification of parts of Amman in preparation for the event, the writer said that although these measures are required it is more important to convince others of our ideas and proposals, at least on the pan-Arab level, and so ensure real and lasting investments.

A writer in Al Dustour said that the newly elected municipal councils have discovered that their municipalities are almost broke and unable to carry out proper municipal services because of a lack of funding. Saleh Qallab said the municipalities seem to have neglected investments in income-generating projects which would in turn finance services, even though they were aware that city and village development banks would have given them soft-loans for those projects. The writer said former municipal councils had contributed to this failure by either failing to collect fees from the public, or had over employed people to work in the municipalities.

## On teachers and their performance: a pat on the shoulder will do

IN HIS impromptu speech to the conference on "Arab Teacher Education in the 21st Century" held at the University of Jordan last week, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan emphasised that any "development" of teacher performance (and of others) must be based on the crucial recognition of "quality, integrity and equality of opportunity" for all, regardless of the "sect, doctrine, party or group" to which individuals belong.

The Crown Prince is absolutely correct. In the teaching profession, as in all professions, a sense of fairness and justice has to prevail. Teachers should be hired, promoted, evaluated and rewarded according to criteria which must not be compromised under any circumstance. If the Ministry of Education is "the mother of all ministries", as His Royal Highness aptly described it, there is all the more reason why we should insist on making it congenial and possible for teachers to excel in effort, commitment and performance.

Implied in the Crown Prince's speech, however, was the sound, but sad, realisation that the Arab World has, so far, not lived up to the principles we advocate and the ideals we cherish. Prince Hassan predicted the 21st century will bring "winds of change", which will inevitably affect the region. Those winds may herald the forceful application of principles and ideals we cherish, since the 20th century ultimately failed to provide for the implementation of these principles and ideals. The Crown Prince, who has invested a great deal of time and effort in the educational sector, is fully aware of the obstacles, problems and challenges and is constantly reminding those involved of the bitter facts. The obvious assumption here, is that if we do not stare these ugly facts in the face, confront them courageously and prescribe effective solutions to them, they will be with us for a long time to come.

It is no secret, especially to those involved or concerned, that the teaching profession in our part of the world has regressed and deteriorated remarkably over the years, instead of progressing and improving as one would expect. Despite the facilities made available, the technologies enthusiastically adopted, the sophisticated syllabi and the teaching methods introduced, the workshops, seminars and conferences devotedly held, the quality of teaching and learning in the public sector (the private sector is a different story) has not improved much. On the contrary, it seems to be going down-hill, at times, at an alarming speed.

There are zillions of reasons and causes related to the students themselves, ranging from: their attitude, their

commitment and their motivation and readiness to learn; to their parents and the home environment; the support parents give their kids, the values they foster in them, the habits they reinforce, their care or carelessness about their child's behaviour at school; to the overall cultural environment, teaching methods and syllabi (not all that glitters is gold); to the teachers themselves and their psychological, moral and physical condition; to the headmasters and their practices; to the ministry officials and their conduct, etc.

One of the main reasons or causes, however, (which is what concerns us directly here) is the absence of the principle of fairness and justice in dealing with teachers. I'll explain.

The other day, a former student of mine who had been a teacher in the Ministry of Education for about nine years, paid me a visit to say "hi" and to tell me that he had resigned from his job and that he had accepted a job offer at a local bank. Though I was not surprised in the least, I was greatly saddened. His resignation is a great loss to his students and to the dear homeland.

He is no ordinary person. He is everything a teacher should be and more. In addition to a charming personality, a great sense of humour, a pleasant voice, a cheerful outlook on life and an alertness beyond description, he had a matchless sense of commitment, a profound understanding of what it means to be a teacher in the Arab World at this precise time in history, an outstanding command of English (the subject he teaches) and of Arabic, in addition to a remarkable awareness of public events and happenings, a real devotion to reading and thinking beyond the boundaries of the narrow discipline and he also possesses a sharp mind. Without exaggeration, the man is a gem. I had the opportunity to observe him teach, to talk to his students and colleagues and to debate a variety of issues with him. He was a great inspiration to his students and extremely courteous to his colleagues. Truly incredible in a world where there is very little commitment to work and very little courtesy.

"I have given up, I cannot take it any more," he said. "I can deal with the hassle from the 'service' and bus drivers, with being poorer than a church mouse, with teaching at a relatively remote part of the world, with my wife and parents making fun of me for not getting what I deserve, with stories about colleagues and former friends less qualified than I who 'made it'. But I cannot deal with ingratitude, cynicism, harassment and injustice on the part of my peers and superiors. I cannot let my life and career

be run for me by people who are extremely inefficient, careless about the calling and extremely unfair in their judgement. I cannot tolerate a situation where the least efficient and able teacher is promoted, rewarded and favoured more than the able and efficient. I cannot stand cliques, favouritism and personal and familiar influence as the sole criteria for job punishments and rewards."

What an ugly world it is when people are not given a fair chance, when distinction is not recognised, when mediocrity is not only tolerated but celebrated, when those who make great efforts are on an equal or less footing with those who do not, when those who deserve a simple 'thank you' are denied it.

The unfortunate thing is that the case of this particular teacher is not an isolated case. Talk to the teachers, and you will see the amount of indiscretion and injustice. Worse, many truly able and talented teachers (almost all underprivileged and unrecognized) have either already quit or will quit the moment they get the chance.

We must have faith in history. We must look at the bright side. We must believe that the 21st century will be better. But we must also do two things, and without delay.

The first thing is, we need to ask ourselves what we can do to speed up the process of change. I believe that with serious planning (and Jordan has a very successful record with development plans) and with faithful implementation of specific measures, we can make progress happen at the beginning of the 21st century and not at the middle or end of it. We have the means, but need the will.

The second, more urgent thing, lies in what we can do now to remedy the deterioration of the profession and the loss of those excellent teachers whose number is decreasing. With opportunities opening up in the private sector, many of them are likely to be snatched up.

The solution here is simple. Such teachers do not want diamonds "as big as the Ritz" — to quote Fitzgerald — but appreciation and encouragement. The worst thing you could do is to appoint a headmaster whose sole pleasure is to insult and punish quality teachers and reward and privilege the mediocre ones, in both subtle and blatant ways.

I do not think it is difficult or impossible to spot teachers who exert a great effort and distinguish themselves in teaching and pat them on the shoulder. Or is it?

We all appreciate the constant effort and attention the Crown Prince has given to the education sector in Jordan, and we wish for more.

## Khartoum beset by multiple crises

By Gill Lusk

LONDON — The tradition of determined political protest has reawakened in Sudan. And the government, only too well aware that Generals Abdu and Numeiri were both brought down by civilian uprisings, has sent a clear signal that it has no intention of losing power so easily.

The government's response to a week of street demonstrations was brutal: indiscriminate shooting and a tactic new to riot control (though familiar in some areas as a traditional way of dealing with thieves) — the deliberate breaking of arms and legs. Despite a swift clamp-down on channels of information, human rights monitors have been able to confirm many such cases; some protesters were beaten during the protests, others were attacked in their own homes and then dragged out onto the street and abandoned. Amid reports of 40 deaths, six were confirmed at MEI press time. Security men were reported to have sealed off Khartoum mortuary, preventing families from identifying bodies.

The protests began peacefully, with a silent march by Khartoum University students on the weekend of 9-10 September. They were protesting at the detention the previous week of three fellow students and at least nine other people.

These detentions had immediately followed the government's much publicised "amnesty" of political and criminal detainees and prisoners, timed to coincide with the visit of a European Parliament delegation and under which former Prime Minister Sadiq Al-Mahdi was also released. Indeed, dozens of detainees are known to have remained in jail or in "ghost houses" after the amnesty. One not released and whose fate was already causing particular concern was Brigadier Mohammad Ahmad Al-Rayah, who had taken the unprecedented step of suing the government, alleging torture and rape.

These were by no means Khartoum's or Sudan's first demonstrations since the National Islamic Front took

power on 30 June 1989. There have been regular protests throughout the North, with Islamic banks a favoured target for burning; at least two were attacked last week. However, these were the first protests to take over central Khartoum and the government feared a repetition of "October", the peaceful civilian march on the Palace that overthrew Ibrahim Abdu in 1964, and "April", the equally peaceful civilian march on the Palace which catalysed the army into removing Jaafar Numeiri in 1985.

Moreover, the build-up of external pressure on the government has continued, with Ethiopia persuading the Organisation of African Unity to condemn Sudan's refusal to hand over three suspects in the assassination attempt on President Mubarak and Egypt cancelling the appointment of its new ambassador to Khartoum, all in the same week.

The government therefore moved swiftly to challenge the protesters, dispatching not only riot police but NIF militias to smash the marches, which were quickly joined by non-students. The bid to restore order has been marked by another new development: the highly visible presence of groups of "civilians" armed with automatic weapons.

These are posted in strategic positions and intervene when deemed necessary. The government thus managed to seal off central Khartoum, closing the four Nile bridges, and containing the demonstrators in less sensitive areas of the capital. Despite the draconian measures, protests continued for a full week. As MEI went to press, leaflets were circulating that called for further protests.

The government knows it cannot rest easy. An ill-timed rise in the price of bread (to 49 Sudanese pounds for a small loaf, considered just about enough for one meal) ensures that discontent will continue to seethe at the most basic level. A worker at the bottom of the income scale with the average family of five eating two small meals a day spends a month's wages on about two weeks' food.

The government has

responded with rapid repression, knowing that a major brake on protest over the last six years has been the popular conviction that, unlike previous military governments, the NIF will not leave power without a fight to the bitter end. The widespread assumption is that the tradition of political tolerance has been broken and that the NIF is finished in Sudan once it loses power.

Neighbours watch with interest

Outside parties, especially Sudan's neighbours, are watching with keen interest. Ethiopia has continued its quiet but increasingly public diplomacy. On 11 September, the OAU committee on conflict resolution in Africa condemned Sudan for failing to hand over suspects in the attack on Mubarak. The OAU has its headquarters in Addis Ababa, which partly explains Ethiopia's low-key approach to the issue. The resolution followed two visits by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who has been seeking to establish friendly relations with Meles Zenawi's government in the wake of the absurd clash that followed the attack on Mubarak.

Four days later, Cairo said it had cancelled, by presidential decree, the appointment of its new Khartoum ambassador. Egyptian officials make it clear the attack on President Mubarak has changed the nature of the long-standing quarrel with Sudan: unlike earlier disputes, it cannot be swept under the carpet. Both Cairo and Addis Ababa have accused Sudan not only of harbouring the attackers but of being involved in the assassination attempt.

With Eritrea and Uganda already having broken off relations, the sense of encirclement is palpably growing. Nevertheless, Kenya, which has repeatedly shown a conciliatory attitude, chose this same week to detain two resident Northern Sudanese oppositionists (one Umma, one SPLA) and threaten to return them to Khartoum, claiming that they had organised the riots in the city.

After diverse pressure on President Daniel arap Moi's government, one was released but the other was still held as MEI went to press.

Opposition parties' caution

Meanwhile, the opposition National Democratic Alliance has been characteristically cautious in responding to the government's crisis. There is a feeling that the three main players — the Umma, Democratic Unionist party and SPLA — are trying to stitch up a triangle that leaves little room for the country's many other parties and groups.

The NDA is reluctant to accept the application for membership of Riek Machar's Southern Sudan Independence Movement, not least because of its name but also because it does not fit in with this three-cornered scheme of things. In the meantime, Riek's (and before that, John Garang's) former spokesman John Luk Jok and the ever mobile William Nyuon Bany (a respected military commander who had only recently returned to Riek after fighting for Khartoum) announced that they had "overthrown" Riek. But they seem to have failed to capitalise on the discontent within Riek's SSIA. After the SPLA flew William up to Kongor, there was heavy fighting in parts of Upper Nile between William's and SSIA forces, most of whom appear to have remained loyal.

Discontent with Garang's leadership has also grown, especially since August when the SPLA lost the border town of Kaya to the government (alarming Kampala) and, while reconciliation within the SSD is still the byword at the lower levels, leaders in all groups are still busy manoeuvring. The war in the South has been the underlying cause of the downfall of every government since independence in 1956. But the triggers are always in the North, where the centre of power lies. Eyes are now fixed on Khartoum.

Middle East International

### LETTERS

#### MENA has a logo

To the editor:

We are sending you a copy of the logo for the Middle East North Africa (MENA) summit since we noted that one of your readers has suggested that there ought to be a logo for the summit, which he seems not to have seen printed in the other Jordanian daily papers (Letters to the editor, by Mounif Zu'bi, Oct. 10, 1995). The logo consists of a sketch of the globe, with an upward-pointing arrow, similar to a graph for economic indicators, symbolising growth and prosperity, with Amman being the forum.

In fact, part of the purpose of the Operations Room is to make information available to the public regarding the summit.

For the staff of the MENA Summit Operations Room,

Rania Atalla

#### Highway robbery

To the Editor:

Jordan is a country which prides itself on law and order. Visitors to Jordan delight in meeting the friendly Jordanian people.

Jordan would seem to be the last country where tourists would be obliged to pay for something they neither want nor use.

On March 1, 1995, without notice, or warning, the Ministry of Antiquities banned horses from riding through the Siq (in Petra). Fine, except that no thought or planning had been given to the implications. Yet, until today, we are forced to pay JD 7 for the horses, which even if we did use it would be only for a few hundred yards from the entry point to the beginning of the Siq. More expensive than Concord to New York. We would waste more time getting on and off the horses than riding such a short distance.

There can be no justification for this "law". I am fully aware of the implications for the families of Wadi Musa, but this is a social welfare matter to which the Jordanian government should address itself.

When the entrance fees for Petra were drastically increased last year, I welcomed this step. I would not hesitate to welcome a further increase, given adequate notice, but to force tourists to pay JD 7 for nothing reminds me of Rob Roy McGregor, bare-faced Highway Robbery.

James Smith,  
 Jasmin Tours Ltd.,  
 High Street,  
 Cookham, Berkshire,  
 England

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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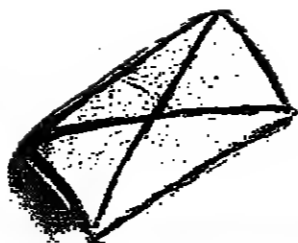
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# Weekender



Jordan Times, October 12, 1995

A

Published Every Thursday

## Society on the Move

### Warm front starts to take chill out of many relations

The sudden departure of the dean of the Arab diplomatic corps in Amman, United Arab Emirates Ambassador Mohammad Jasim Shukr surprised more than a few of his friends and associates. But most would tell you the reason was not, as was reported in the opposition weekly newspaper Al Majd this week, because he was avoiding a big diplomatic send off which would put him in a situation of having to shake hands with Israeli Ambassador Shimon Shamir. In fact, we learned that the UAE ambassador had been preparing to leave four weeks in advance of his end of duty here. The only diplomat to actually see him off last Thursday was Saudi Arabia's Chargé d'Affaires in Amman Mohammad Bassam, who said the report by Al Majd was "preposterous." Still many ambassadors felt an even greater loss to hear their counterpart left so quickly, and they were unable to give him the proper farewell, particularly since Mr. Shukr himself was known for being one of the most gracious of diplomatic hosts.

**Peace is sharing:** Not planning to avoid any handshakes come early November will be Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Faysal Tarawneh and former Israeli chief negotiator to the Jordan-Israel talks Eliakim Rubinstein. The two former counterparts will share the first of what will become an annual prize for contributions to peace organised and funded by Israeli businesswoman and philanthropist Gita Sherover. Mrs. Sherover is the proprietor of Beit Gabriel, the structure she built overlooking Lake Tiberias in memory of her only son, which was the site of the first meeting in Israel between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in which they exchanged the instruments of ratification of the peace treaty. The \$50,000 prize will be split evenly between Messrs. Tarawneh and Rubinstein. Mr. Tarawneh, who will be in Amman to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, will extend his stay until Nov. 7 when the awarding of the prize will take place at Beit Gabriel. Mr. Tarawneh plans to invite more than a dozen relatives and close friends to the event, including of course former Prime Minister who is his predecessor as head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks Abdul Salam Majali.

**An editor's note:** Among the group of Arab thinkers who were in Amman last week for a meeting of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), partially attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is the ATF chairman, was Editor-in-Chief of the Kuwaiti magazine Al Arabi Mohammad Rumeihi. The meeting itself brought together delegates from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq to discuss the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and it was agreed there that another meeting should take place in January to further discuss the issue. Mr. Rumeihi, took the opportunity of his visit to Jordan to drop in on old friends such as former Minister of Culture Amin Mohmoud, who tough history of Kuwait University until 1990, journalist Tawfiq Abu Bakr and Secretary General of the Communist Party Yacoub Zayadeen. The influential editor was said to be of the opinion that it was time for reconciliation and forward thinking in the Arab fold. According to those he visited here, he spoke of the agony of the Iraqi people, saying Kuwaitis were indeed concerned for their welfare but were also "highly critical" of the Iraqi regime. Mr. Rumeihi said that he expects a rather larger turnout of Kuwaiti delegates to the planned ATF meeting in January. On relations with Jordan, he said he was very optimistic that the exchange of ambassadors would take place within three to four months. The warming was quite evident, said one of his friends here.

**Was it or wasn't it?** Mr. Rumeihi was not the only Kuwaiti said to be visiting Amman. While cool weather draws near, warmer relations seemed to be the trend when also this week a delegation representing Kuwaiti Islamists, was reported to have met here with leaders of Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood movement to discuss relations between Islamists in both countries. Abdullah Mutawe', a prominent Kuwaiti businessman and member of the visiting delegation, was said to express dismay over the Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood's stand during the Gulf crisis. But following their discussions here, a local newspaper reported, the visitors said they understood their associates' position, and both sides agreed to open a new page. But Islamic Action Front (IAF) sources in Amman denied they had any formal contact with leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood movement of Kuwait and with Mr. Mutawe', who is a member of Al Islah (Reform) Society, an institution of the brotherhood

in Kuwait. The IAF sources did say, however, that they hoped relations between their movements would improve. But they said they did not see how that would be possible if only two months ago, they said, Jasim Yassin, the leader of the Kuwaiti Constitutional Movement was denied entry into Jordan although he was only supposed to be in the Kingdom while transiting to another country. As far as the question of the presence of Mr. Mutawe' in Jordan, the IAF sources said he owns a house in Amman near Gardens Street, so his being in the country is nothing unusual.

**Measuring aperture:** Showing signs of seeking to open up and engage is not only Kuwait but also the government of Iran who will be sending a delegation from its foreign ministry to Amman Friday to meet with Jordanian intellectuals for discussions on regional developments. The team from Tehran includes head of the delegation Ahmad Haj Hussein, director of the Centre for International Affairs, Ahmad Mohammadi, Abdullah Nouruzi, head of planning and educational services, and Mohammad Al Imami, an expert on international affairs. The group is scheduled to meet with President of the University of Jordan Fawzi Gharibeh, Arab Thought Forum Director Ali Umleil, and President of AL al Bayt University Adnan Bakht. They will also give a seminar and hold discussions at the Jordan University's Centre for Strategic Studies and the World Affairs Council. Their visit comes just over a month after Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalgani met with His Majesty King Hussein to talk about the situation in Iraq. This team follows another high level Iranian delegation which visited Jordan in mid-September. No Iranian delegation will attend the MENA summit, but in January a regional conference organised by UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) is planned to be hosted in Amman to discuss Arab-Iranian relations. Although it was expected that Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Abbas Maliki, would be heading the delegation scheduled to arrive Friday, his plans were changed. But sources say he will soon head another delegation to Amman.

**Three's a charm:** In New York, a Jordanian has been elected as secretary of the second committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Bashir Zu'bi, the third secretary of Jordan's permanent mission to the UN was elected during the UN General Assembly's 50th session which is currently convening at UN headquarters in New York, as secretary to the second committee, one of the main UN General Assembly committees, in charge of financial and economic issues. The second committee groups four members: the chairperson, vice chairperson, rapporteur and secretary. Chairmanship of this committee rotates among five geographical areas, namely Asia, Africa, Eastern and Western Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean area. The committee deals with such issues as economy and foreign debt, international economic cooperation and trade, sustainable environment and development. It also implements UN resolutions and recommendations on environment and development. Mr Zu'bi is the third Jordanian to serve on this committee. During the General Assembly's 21st session, Mervat Tal was elected chairman of the committee, and in the 31st session, Umayyah Touqan, the present director of Amman Financial Market, served as vice chairman of the committee.

**Getting to the business at hand:** From across the Mediterranean, Professor Alberto Martinelli, Italy's renowned dean of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Milan is in Amman where he has given lectures on Italy's political system in transition at the University of Jordan. Prof. Martinelli, 55, obtained his masters degree in economics at Bocconi University of Milan and his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California at Berkeley. He has published books on sociological and political theory, complex organisations, entrepreneurship and management, higher education, interest groups and political parties and international economic relations. Prof. Martinelli, who writes regular commentaries in Corriere Della Sera, Italy's largest newspaper, is here also to discuss possible exchanges of scholars and researchers and ways of strengthening area studies on Europe. The practical professor, who is accompanied on this trip by his wife, was said to be so eager to come to Jordan that when the Italian concern found it a problem to cover his air fare (full accommodations in Jordan were being covered by the Jordanian side) Prof. Martinelli simply said, "Oh, that's no problem, I'll pay my own way."

**A time to remember:** Also here from Italy, but by way of Australia more than 30 years ago, is Australian-born painter Janet Venn-Brown. Ms. Venn-Brown has a mission, which is to sell off her 100 or so remaining paintings of the Arab Middle East to Arab art appreciators and those who would like to remember "a period in our history that has already been, or is or present being surpassed."

Her exhibition, "An Arab Diary," will be held at Alti Art Gallery from Oct. 15 to 22 and will be opened under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Widad Ali, Ms. Venn-Brown, who was last in Jordan in 1989, explains that she paints in gouache (a mixture using quick-drying egg white) because for her the spontaneity of the impression is important. Her works include scenes of Amman, Sana'a, Nazwa and a particular favourite, Jerusalem.

**From the head of the class:** Emmy Award winner Khrystyne Haje, who co-starred as the redhead "Simone" in the 5-year run of the American sitcom "Head of the Class" is here in Jordan. This being her second visit, Ms. Haje fell right into the social pace of things touching down at Queen Alia International Airport and whisking off to Mount Nebo for a wedding ceremony of business entrepreneur Ghassan Salti and Rula Khreisheh. The 23-year-old daughter of Kamil and Rita Haje of Los Angeles, California, was voted by People Magazine as one of the 50 most beautiful people in the world. Her quick visit with family and a tour of the Kingdom and Jerusalem is actually a leisure leg of a working trip as she will head for Athens to shoot a new film. Ms. Haje was so thrilled with Jordan that she plans to bring her entire family back with her next time. On her new film we say, "Break a leg Khrystyne!" (That's stage talk for "good luck," an expression which is taboo in the theatre arts.)

**A long-haul cause:** The theatre expression "break a leg" is not how Jordan will greet 111 German volunteer

Jennifer Hamarneh



Khrystyne Haje

cyclists when they arrive in Amman Friday to prepare for a 27 kilometre tour of the capital joined by Jordanian cyclists from the Jordan Bicycle Federations. The German group, which calls itself Tour Peiper, is made up of Olympic gold-medalists, well-known doctors, politicians, media personalities and other prominent German individuals, in addition to former cancer patients. Their purpose is to demonstrate their commitment to the fight against childhood cancer by exerting physical effort, creating public awareness and offering contributions to childhood cancer treatment and research around the world. Headed by Professor Fritz Lampert, chief of the Department of Ambulatory Paediatrics and Haematology/Oncology at Children's Hospital at the University of Geissen in Germany, the group selected the Al Amal Cancer Centre here as one of its beneficiaries and thus will present the centre with its donation on Saturday at a ceremony at the site of the new centre. It is after that that the cyclists, German and Jordanian, will mount up for the tour of Amman which will then continue through Jordan's archaeological and historical sites and end in Agaba. The German team will continue through the Wadi Araba crossing to extend their humanitarian mission in Israel. Wishing them a safe journey.

## U. S. presidents and the Palestine question

U.S. Policy on Palestine From Wilson to Clinton  
Michael W. Suleiman, ed.

U.S. Policy on Palestine from Wilson to Clinton makes a concerted effort to provide a comprehensive historical overview of U.S. foreign policy as it pertains to Palestine. This effort was inspired by the need for a concise reference regarding the role America has played in the modern history of the Palestinian people and the state of Israel. By focusing on various U.S. Administrations, the book provides a useful study aid for those who wish to obtain an introductory history of American policy towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Although it consists of a compilation of essays, U.S. on Palestine exhibits continuity and a concise interpretation of its overriding theme. While the opening chapter discusses American perceptions of the Palestinian people, the final essay addresses factors affecting U.S. policy on Palestine, noting that the terms of the ongoing peace process reflect, a continuation of the United States' negotiation of Palestinian self-determination.

In the first chapter, the book's editor, Michael W. Suleiman, discusses the reasons behind the American public's stereotypical view of the Palestinian people and how this antipathy has affected U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Suleiman stresses that, in interpreting biblical texts, some fundamentalist Christians regard the Holy Land in terms of Christians and Jews, thereby marginalising Palestinian rights to self-determination. Furthermore, the Orientalist view of the Palestinians, which the American people inherited from Europe, caused American policy-makers to dismiss the political motives behind Palestinian actions, instead attributing these actions to "cultural backwardness" rather than the will to struggle for national liberation. Hence, these negative stereotypes facilitated the efforts of pro-Israeli groups in America to place the "security" of Israel at the top of American foreign policy priorities, at the expense of Palestinian human rights and self-determination.

In her essay, Deborah Gerner addresses how the Eisenhower administration missed more than one opportunity to solve the Palestinian-Israeli problem. She begins by noting that American foreign policy under Eisenhower was concerned primarily with opposing communism. As a result, the U.S. government's main goal was to minimise Soviet involvement in the Middle East and protect petroleum supplies for its European allies.

Consequently, resolving the Palestinian issue "was important only insofar as the failure to do so might damage U.S. and Western relations with the Arab World, make

the Arab states susceptible to Soviet influence, and risk the security of Middle Eastern oil sources," according to Gerner. She argues that the Eisenhower administration rejected the national desires of the Palestinians and instead believed that improving their economic well-being would compensate them for the loss of their homeland. Because of these views, the Eisenhower Administration failed to exploit Israel's vulnerability to American pressure to push for the return of Palestinian refugees and the redrawing of armistice lines to form an independent Palestinian state.

Several essays deal with the policies of past administrations, including Truman, Kennedy, and Nixon, while others cover the recent policies of the Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. "Truman's vacillation" in his policy on Palestine is explained as a product of the main post-World War II foreign policy concerns of the United States, namely Western Europe's economic recovery and Soviet containment in the Middle East. As a result, the U.S. government supported one party or the other depending on how such support would affect these considerations. It is argued that Kennedy and Johnson viewed the question of Palestine only as a refugee problem, whereas Nixon and Carter desired a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Authors Donald Neff and Janice Terry seek to failed, while others

## BOOK REVIEW

discuss how the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton Administrations viewed Israel as a strategic asset in the region, and continued to negate the Palestinian right to self-determination.

In the book's conclusion, Ibrahim Aho Lughod delineates the main factors that continue to affect U.S. policy on Palestine, including "deep-seated racial, ethnic, and religious prejudices against the Arabs" and the refusal to acknowledge the Palestinian struggle as a national liberation movement. Aho Lughod adds that by subordinating the Palestinian question to the wider Arab-Israeli conflict, America has focused on Palestinian autonomy rather than full-fledged independence, and has ignored the plight of the Palestinian people in its dealing with states in the region.

Although hooks which consist of a collection of essays on a central topic may not always be appreciated as a single unit, U.S. Policy on Palestine is an exception. Indeed, the essays' chronological order gives the work an historical structure and renders it an easily readable history of American foreign policy. The true value of the book lies in its function as a concise yet detailed reference of how American presidents have addressed the question of Palestine.

By Joseph Ayoub

## Sources of knowledge

By Jean-Claude Elias

One of the personal computers' idiosyncrasies is the way people have to learn how to operate them. Whether old-timers thinking it's never too late and jumping on the bandwagon or freshly graduated students, there is no way one could have learned in an academic way all what it takes to use a PC and be in control.

In spite of the fact that computers have become an official part of schools curriculum, even those who just finished their studies will find that between the time they graduated and the time they have to use a computer in their profession, things have already changed, and machines and software have evolved. Unless they maintain an uninterrupted relationship with PCs, they constantly have to learn new ways.

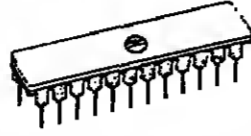
I am often told that those who study informatics, electronics or computer science should know everything about PCs. Alas! First, the art of using personal computers — that is running Windows, spreadsheets, etc. — doesn't have much to do with the above mentioned sciences. Second, the winds of change are blowing so fast that the never ending process of learning the said art is putting everybody on the same level. On some topics, a seasoned pro may not know more than a 13-year-old schoolboy.

True, those who take scientific topics like the ones above are more prepared than others to understand the world of computers. They can probably learn faster and have, overall, a better conceptualisation of what's going on inside the machine and in the software. Eventually, they'll make a better use of the computer than those who didn't study any of the above disciplines.

If not at school where can the layman get a "PC knowledge" from? While the most efficient, straightforward approach is the practical one — i.e. get a PC and spend an average of 4 to 6 hours a day, 8 days a week, trying to figure out the way it works — there are still more systematic methods.

Taking training courses with specialised companies, software houses or colleges is a sure, though long if not tedious, scheme to reach the PCs Holy Grail. Buying original software and reading the programme's user manual, provided it is well-written, often proves to be an efficient and time saving approach. The problem of those who complain of not understanding software is sometimes due to the fact that they are not running originals but pirated,

## chip talk



illegal copies, given to them without any documentation.

Even when a good user manual is available, how many of us, including the writer of this column who humbly confesses, do actually read the book? Very few, I am afraid.

Another, parallel kind of computer literature has recently proven to be of a great help to PC aficionados — PC magazines. Apart from the generous share of advertisement they hold (more than 75 per cent) these publications also contain technical reviews and stories, at various levels of difficulty. Each can find his or her own. Through them, I have often discovered new ways of doing things, learned smart tricks, benefited from a useful advice on miscellaneous topics. Some users owe them most of what they know about PCs.

PC Magazine, Personal Computer World, Byte, Windows Magazine, PC Shopper, PC Pro and others (all available at newsstands in Amman) are extremely attractive to read. Much more than plain user manuals that could be boring. The magazines are colourful, well-designed, always up-to-date. They publish articles on new software, that are very helpful for first time users. With such reading and a little experience, the average computer user can do wonders. No need to go to any school.

Similar Arabic publications have recently appeared in the Middle East. Though well-prepared and certainly useful for those who cannot read English, they can hardly compete with the above mentioned American and English magazines that are issued by large, powerful publishing houses with tremendous technical and marketing capabilities.

Whatever path PC lovers chose to follow for their learning, one thing is certain, the more they read, the better the results.

## Give me land, give me more land. Don't fence me in

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

O. J. Simpson's show trial has just ended. It was a show trial because the amount of money spent on it was of the kind that would have normally sufficed to make a big-budget movie. And, as it has just been acclaimed, that was exactly what the people in television had done by bringing to us all the twists and turns of the trial on a day-to-day basis.

O. J.'s story was a perfect fit of a certain cinematic genre where the accused is always a famous television star or a retired football hero. But once the jury in this trial had identified with this movie genre they had no choice but to find the defendant innocent because that is the way that it always is in the movies.

And this is the message that the director of a certain television programme called "Just like in the movies" conveys. In this TV show, the main character always compares whatever happens to him on a daily basis with movies, or television shows, that he has seen as a kid and he formulates decisions accordingly.

By implication, it would be quite an entertaining notion if all of us could live our lives just as if they were a part of a soap opera or, as it is the case for quite a lot of us, as part of an action thriller with a twist of Friday the 13th or something of the sort. Quite justifiably, this would imply that, just like fate — for those of us who believe in it anyway — our lives would be predetermined by some movie or another.

All this seems to indicate that just as television had transposed the Simpson trial from a physical to a virtual realm where its reality and significance were relativised, it has also transposed our lives into a virtual realm where what we know of and about ourselves and the millions and millions of people who live around us is purely what we see and hear on television and, to a lesser extent, what we read about it in the newspapers. We have never met Willy Claes but we see him on television everyday. We do

not know who Miles Kington is, but we can tell a lot about him by reading his articles. We have never been to the Comoros but somehow we now feel a slight tingle whenever the name crops up.

In spite of all this, and partly because of it, there is an actual reality outside of all this which just keeps turning up at the door. Unannounced. This is partly because we would rather not deal with it? Maybe. But to acknowledge its existence is a must if we are to solve all of our present problems.

Inefficiency, bad luck, corruption, horedum, poor training, disrespect, apathy, ignorance, resistance to modernisation, pride, the inability to listen, really listen, the inability to learn from past mistakes and the tangled web of bureaucracy all make an ultimate recipe for destruction.

The decline in the value of the commercial properties in the Wasfi Al-Tal Street (ex-Gardens Street) are no more than the direct results of the failure to properly implement worldwide accepted norms in urban planning regarding the movement of people between adjacent buildings, and the movement, also of people, from one side to another, simply because one designer refuses to acknowledge that the work of another exists. And no amount of faint yellow paint will ever disguise such planning mishaps.

We are smart enough to know what our mistakes are and no one should take offence that such problems are being put out in the open.

Intolerable situations are being created where it is folly to simply keep quiet waiting for the problem to go away. We cannot wish our problems away. We have to act now. We have to offer lasting solutions to problems that have been with us for years and years. By doing just that, and by crossing that threshold, we will have proved to the whole world that we have truly matured as individuals, as a people and as a nation.

### AMAZING FACTS

\* One normally associates pyramids with ancient Egypt, but surprisingly, the world's largest pyramid is in Mexico. It is called the Quetzacoatl and was built with sun dried bricks and earth around the year 100. Although only 177 feet high, it covers an area of 45 acres. The tallest pyramid, however, is the Pyramid of Cheops in Egypt, which was originally 480 feet high. It covers an area of 13 acres. It has been estimated that the Mexican pyramid is a million cubic yards greater in volume than the Pyramid of Cheops.

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\* The Tuatara lizard, of New Zealand, still grows the rudiments a third eye on the top of its head — a link with the time when the creature had many flying enemies.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* The Rafflesia Arnoldi, is the largest blossom in the world measuring 3 feet across — it also gives an overpowering stench of rotting carrion.

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Liu Ch'ing was born with two pupils in each eye! But this double deal nature didn't stop him from entering public services and, in 955 A. D., he became the governor of Sbanis province.

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## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

#### CLOTHES

— How pretty this suit is!

Ya laha min badlten jameela!

— Tomorrow I intend to buy a shirt, trousers, necktie, and socks.

Ghadan anwee an ashtari Kamisan, wa bantalounan, warabata onoq wa jawarib

— The skit, bodice, dress, sbawl and slippers are old. Attannoura wassudriya wal fustan wash'shal wash'shibshib qadeema

— We use an apron for babies and kitchen work. Nasta'mil al-maryala lil-atfal wa'amal al-mat'bakh.

— She wants an evening dress & a slip. Torred fustan sahra wakalsun

### JOKES

\* SERVANT: My master is out, sir.  
VISITOR: When is he expected to come back?  
SERVANT: Just wait for a minute. I'll go and ask him!

\* MISTRESS: Don't cut cheese before cleaning the knife.  
MAID: It's not necessary to do the cleaning, madam. I cut a bar of soap with it a few minutes ago!

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the connection between Heliopolis, New York and London?
2. Where were the Hanging Gardens; who built them?
3. What may be regarded as the greatest of all "recording" achievement?
4. What is ager-ager?
5. What is tafia? Where do we get it from?
6. The former custom of Hindu widows' committing suicide on their husbands' funeral pyres. What is it called?

### PUZZLES

(A) C..... is for composer. This is a great German artist. The initials of the objects spell out his NAME.



(B) WHAT is it that occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and yet not once in a 1000 years.

### Thursday, Oct. 12, 1995

- 1:00 Iris - The Happy Professor
- 1:20 Fireman Sam
- 1:30 My Secret Identity
- 2:00 N.B.A.
- 3:00 The New Leave It to Beaver
- 3:30 Gillette World Sport
- 4:00 White Heat
- 5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis  
"Ma Thor"
- 5:30 Varieties And Game Show  
Le Monde Est A Vous
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine  
Archimede
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 The Album Show
- 8:30 National Geographic
- 9:15 The New Avengers
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — The Miracle Workers  
Starring: Patty Duke Austin & Diane Muldawn
- 11:50 The Thorn Birds

### Friday, Oct. 13, 1995

- 1:00 Read A Lee Deed A Lee
- 1:15 Beethoven
- 1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That
- 2:00 White Fang
- 2:30 The Ronn Lucas Show
- 3:00 Tall Tales & Legends
- 4:00 The Crystal Maze
- 5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis  
"Le Temple Du Condor"
- 5:30 Telefilm  
La Verite En Face
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine  
E=Mc
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Coach
- 8:00 African Skies
- 8:30 Museums Around The World
- 9:15 Wolf
- 10:00 News In English

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

- 10:25 Buccaneers
- 11:30 Movie — The Maid  
Starring: Martin Sheen & Jackie Bisset

### Saturday, Oct. 14, 1995

- 2:00 Back To The Future
- 2:30 Harry And The Hendersons
- 3:00 Blue Heelers
- 3:45 Only In Hollywood
- 4:10 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis  
"La Takades Inuks"
- 5:30 Documentary  
Le Loire Au Fil Des Hommes
- 6:00 Drama Series  
Operation Open 1 Et 2
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine  
Faut Pas Rever
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 First Flights
- 8:00 Major Dad
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — The Fifteen Streets  
Starring: Owen Teale & Ian Banner
- 11:50 The Tin Flute

### Sunday, Oct. 15, 1995

- 2:00 The Flintstones
- 2:30 Joshua Jones
- 2:45 Droopy Master Detective
- 3:00 Scientific Eye
- 3:30 Pugwall's Summar
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis
- 5:30 Serie

### Monday, Oct. 16, 1995

- 2:00 Shelley Duvall's Bedtime Stories  
Hey Dad!
- 2:30 Nature World Of Mitsuaki
- 3:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:00 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis  
Serie  
Les Aventuriers Du Rio Verde
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine  
Nimbus
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Camp Wildest
- 8:00 Women Eat Last  
(On the occasion of World Food Day)
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 Hearts Of The West
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Inspector Morse
- 12:00 American Chart Show

### Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1995

- 2:00 Captain Planet
- 2:30 M.A.N.T.I.S

- 3:00 To Run The Gauntlet
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis
- 5:30 Serie  
Fruits Et Legumes
- 5:00 Magazine  
Croisiere A L.A. Decouverte Du Monde
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine  
Faut Pas Rever
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 The Secrets Of Treasure Islands
- 8:00 You Bet Your Life
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:10 True Blue
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Movie — Love Can Be Murder  
Starring: Jaclyn Smith & Corbin Bernsen
- 12:00 A Perfect Hero
- 12:30 Grace Under Fire

### Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1995

- 2:00 Madeline
- 2:30 Ghost Writers
- 3:00 Tomorrow's World
- 3:30 Amazing Stories
- 4:00 I Love Lucy
- 4:30 Tarzan
- 5:00 Children's Programme  
Les Mondes Engloutis
- 5:30 Jeux  
Pago Pago
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 Magazine  
Ushuaia, Le Magazine De L'Extreme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Arthur C. Clarke's Mysterious Universe
- 8:00 Anything For A Laugh
- 8:25 The Bold And The Beautiful
- 9:15 The Other Americas
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:25 Prism
- 10:45 Law And Order
- 11:45 Silk Road
- 12:30 Second Thoughts

## Arts & Fashion

Jordan Times, October 12, 1995

C

### Very pregnant Jane Seymour hard at work on Dr. Quinn

By Lynn Elber  
The Associated Press

AGOURA HILLS, California — A genuinely pregnant Jane Seymour, with rope tied carefully above her stomach's gentle swell, is wedged into a make-believe crevice of a make-believe pikes peak.

Her TV series character, Dr. Michaela Quinn, has taken a tumble while trying to climb the landmark Colorado Mountain — duplicated in a rugged suburban Los Angeles canyon — and must be hoisted to safety.

"The next thing I know, I'm flying through the air," says the actress, recounting her inadvertent stunt work from the safety of a nearby trailer.

"It would have been frightening if I didn't trust the crew. They don't want anything to happen to me. They'd really like the show to continue."

Seymour, although expecting twins in December, is hard at work in the hot, dusty state park doubling for Colorado Springs circa 1860, the setting for Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman.

Pregnancy is hampering her just a bit. The same for Dr. Quinn, which is filming around its increasingly round star to disguise her condition.

The series, on the U.S. CBS broadcast network, is in its fourth season.

"In this particular episode I'm not supposed to be pregnant at all," Seymour says. "So we've got the bedroll here and the bag there and rock here and the wagon there."

"It's an interesting exercise in choreographing your props."

And in timing, Dr. Quinn, after all, is fresh from her honeymoon with rugged mountain man Byron Sully (Joe Lando), whom she

married in last season's finale.

Well known as one of TV's few virgins, it's impossible that the good doctor would be so soon and largely pregnant. After all, she is just discovering the joy of sex — and joy it is, says Seymour.

"Having been a virgin for so long, she has discovered she really likes it (lovmaking) a lot," the actress says.

Much is left to viewers' imagination. The series has cultivated a family following and is passionate about not giving offense.

"There's nothing graphic seen but there's plenty of sexual tension," Seymour says.

There will be a Quinn-Sully baby this season, arriving in the final episode. Visible pregnancy will catch up with Dr. Quinn after the actress has delivered her own newcomers.

She won't face another trauma: Finding herself unemployed.

"When I was younger, when I had my first child, I was actually fired from a (acting) job because I was pregnant," Seymour recalled.

"The same people who said 'oh, how wonderful, how incredible,' the next day told me I was a medical risk, an insurance risk, and they'd be happy if they never saw me again."

Beth Sullivan, creator and executive producer of Dr. Quinn, proved accommodating. "It's worked out perfectly," Seymour said.

The 44-year-old actress, married to actor-director James Keach, is combining family and career in a big way. Along with children Katie and Sean Michael from a previous marriage, she helps raise her stepchildren.

Dr. Quinn has her own superwoman badge of honour, as a rare 19th century



Jane Seymour as Dr. Quinn

female doctor and the adoptive mother of orphans Matthew, Colleen and Brian (played by Chad Allen, Jessica Bowman and Shawn Toovey).

Dr. Quinn, sweet-natured and with an eye toward political correctness on historical issues such as American Indian mistreatment, has taken abuse from annoyed critics.

Seymour, clearly ardent about the series, rises to a

spirited defence.

"Dr. Quinn doesn't talk down to children or adults. It opens up wonderful issues that are very relevant to today," she said.

"The history factor is terrific. How many children open up their social studies books and yawn? Now they can actually relate to the plight of native Americans? They have names, they have kids, they're people."

### Fiona Shaw's Richard II — an actress in love with risk

By Matt Wolf  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Her body bound in white, hair shorn close to the head, Fiona Shaw resembles a mummified, oddly sexless figure when she first appears as Shakespeare's Richard II.

So intriguing are Shaw and a magnificent supporting cast headed by David Threlfall as Bolingbroke that by play's end, you have forgotten what piqued your interest in the first place — that Shaw is a woman playing the bard's most lyrically spoken king.

Her performance in the Royal National Theatre production embraces childish petulance and a reserved dignity, playfulness and pain.

Having opened in June at the Cottesloe Auditorium, the production is expected to remain in the repertory at least until March, with a two-week visit to Paris in January and a further seven weeks across Europe, starting March 25, 1996.

Richard II is the sixth collaboration between English director Deborah Warner and Shaw, the London-based Irish actress known to filmgoers from My Left Foot and Mountains Of The Moon, or perhaps from exercises in Hollywood slumming like Super Mario Brothers.

In her last National Theatre outing, in Sophie Treadwell's Machinal, Shaw won an Olivier Award as best actress. Her past teamwork with Warner on Electra and Hedda Gabler made for electrifying theatre and a lot of exposed nerves on stage.

Occasionally, you wonder whether a different director would temper Shaw's tendencies towards excess, but there is no disputing the acuity both women bring to their work.

One thing this production is not, Shaw insists, is a glitzy essay in gender-bending.

"I have no wish, no hope, to see a rash of cross-dressed productions," said Shaw, distinguishing the production from such recent



Fiona Shaw in the movie My Left Foot

London ventures as the popular all-male As You Like It, directed by Declan Donnellan.

The 36-year-old actress said in an interview that the production was not arrived at "lightly or quickly."

The aim had nothing to do with putting a woman in pants — or, in this case, a wrap-around white sheet and legs bandaged to match. Rather, it had everything to do with widening the definition of theatre.

"We have a very reduced imaginative menu at the moment. Theatre at its best reminds us that our imaginations are bigger than we allow them to be," Shaw said.

The production arose out of a conversation between director and star during a tour to Paris of their 1988-89 collaboration on Sophocles' Electra. "I had never done any Shakespeare with Deborah,

and we wanted to do a Shakespeare together."

Why Richard II?

"This play, like a lot of his plays, is a sort of problem play," she said. "It has a theatrical centre based on femininity which had reached its cul de sac with men playing effete women."

The aim, she said, was "to throw in an unknown element and see what happens."

"The more you ask an audience to believe, the more they will believe. It's fun to break the boundaries down."

The production, accordingly, focuses less on male-female issues than on Richard's relationship to divinity in an era when the divine right of kings made any rebellion against the ruler a sin.

"We elevate some humans to beyond human. The language of the play is all about that," said Shaw, whose restless intelligence is as evident in her conversation as it is in her acting.

The play, she said, addresses "not a man thinking he's a king, but a king who thinks he's God."

Richard II is not Shaw's first foray into reversing genders.

She recently appeared with Clare Higgins, John Wood and Alex Jennings in a National Theatre studio workshop of Congreve's comic classic 'The Way Of The World', in which the women took the men's parts and vice versa.

Abandoning that project, said Shaw, was "quite a relief."

"We all left after about three days, and had a glass of champagne," she said.

Shaw returns to the Congreve comedy playing the central woman, Millamant, in an upcoming national revival, opening Oct. 19.

### Hughes twins turn from black movie stereotypes

By Steve James  
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — As young black men, twin brothers Albert and Allen Hughes are passionately concerned about racism in America, but as movie directors they do not see things in black and white.

Their new film Dead Presidents rises above race to tell a tale that affected a generation of Americans returning from war. The movie is set in New York in the 1970s and tells of the frustration of Vietnam War veterans returning to an America that did not hail them as conquering heroes.

"We wanted it to be bigger than a black film. We really wanted to stay away from race, because that's not what the movie's about," Albert Hughes told Reuters. "It's an all-American story to me. The boy's family, they're not ghetto, probably lower middle-class in the North Bronx he hangs out with his friends, hangs out down at a shady pool-hall, you can be white and do those things."

The Hughes brothers are part of a movement of black filmmakers trying to get away from stories about the violence and poverty of the ghettos and into more mainstream issues with wider appeal.

"We want to make our

own niche in the market. We definitely feel very strongly about racism and we speak out about it, but in the movies it's just a waste of time when you've got three other guys dealing with it every year," Allen Hughes said. "Other black film-makers are heavy on that subject matter, that's their area and why should we do the same thing?"

"Yes, and when they deal with it they're pointing to the obvious — social commentary, you know, stuff the average white guy would already know," his brother chimed in. "You can turn a lot of people off like that if you don't do it the right way."

The Hughes twins, with a string of hip-hop videos and shorts to their credit, have already made their "ghetto" film as 20-year-old directors of the critically acclaimed Menace II Society that premiered at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival.

Their new film tells how black Marine Anthony Curtis, played by Laurence Fishburne, survives Vietnam only to discover that the country he served scorns him rather than rewarding him. After losing his job and his girlfriend, he contributes to his own downfall by associating with black militants and an ill-advised scheme to rob an armoured car full of Dead Presidents — street slang for money.

"He goes away to war and he and all of his friends get their innocence taken away from them. They get back and commit a heist, it's not a racial issue," Allen Hughes said. "There are certain things we hit on as far as black vets coming home. It wasn't like we said they had a harder time getting jobs, which they did."

"The main character, he doesn't think about race, which is very much unlike us and kind of hard to do," Albert added.

The film, with a soundtrack like a who's-who of soul music, captures the feel of New York City in the 1970's. (British director) John Schlesinger did Midnight Cowboy and came to New York. The thing he brought to it was that naked eye, he totally captured New York like it needed to be captured," Albert Hughes said.

In a similar way, the twins did painstaking research into a period they never experienced, having been born in 1973.

"We had a complete naked eye to that period, so anything from that period caught our eye. The icons from that era are what we were using," Albert said.

"People were asking us when we were making the movie, 'what do you know about this? You weren't around, you weren't in Vietnam,'" his brother interjected.

"Film-makers aren't supposed to live through the experience that they capture on film. You don't necessarily have to be in that atmosphere to tell the best story, in fact you can tell a better story. Kubrick didn't fly to the moon (to make 2001-A Space Odyssey), Coppola wasn't in Vietnam for Apocalypse Now, but he definitely highlighted images that only he could have done."

The twins, who studied at Los Angeles Community College Film School, count several white directors as influences.

"Sergio Leone — he was a master filmmaker. Ahead of his time and he died before his time," Albert Hughes said.

"We want to structure our career path more after someone like him or Kubrick — they don't do movies year after year after year. They stop, live life and develop their projects. Some of the film-makers today, they make film after film after film, they lose the perspective of living life."

His brother added: "The Asphalt Jungle, is one of our favourites and you've got Scarface, the 1932 version, the Cagney films. The greatest movie-making was back then."

### Record companies pump up the volume on British pop

By Leslie Adler  
Reuters

LONDON — More than 30 years after the Beatles made British pop an international phenomenon, the music scene in Britain is once again reverberating to a popular beat.

Music companies such as Polygram's Island Records and Thorn EMI's EMI Music are investing huge sums to promote British acts and hundreds of thousands of dollars on live tours. The investments are paying off in a wave of top-selling albums.

British pop music never died, of course. But from the mid-1980s through to the early 1990s the enormous success of American grunge artists such as Pearl Jam and Nirvana turned British pop acts into bit players on the musical stage.

Since the early 1990s, British pop has been making a comeback, with groups such as Blur and Oasis displacing American acts at the top of the British charts.

"The few years after punk, the early 80s, the middle, late 80s, it was a British desert," said Stuart Maconie, a British music writer for publications such as Q.

Blur, one of the hottest "Britpop" groups and marketed by EMI's Parlophone label, last year saw its album Parklife sell more than 900,000 copies in Britain alone.

Help, an album made to benefit the Bosnian relief charity War Child and fea-

turing Britain's top-selling artists such as Blur, the Stone Roses, Portishead, the Chemical Brothers and the Charlatans became the number one album on the second day of its release.

Help, has sold 250,000 copies in Britain since its release on Sept. 9 and another 100,000 copies in Europe.

"In the U.K. there is a renaissance in British pop music," said David Hughes, a spokesman for EMI Music. "I think we're enjoying the healthiest period we have had in a long time."

The renewed popularity of British groups is, as much as anything, a reaction to the success of American acts.

"American music dominated the culture (at) the beginning of the 90s. People had enough of that," said Maconie.

He believes Blur marked the revival of Britain's musical fortunes. "Blur was the first to say 'we don't want to know what's coming out of America. We don't care about Pearl Jam. We don't care about Nirvana'," he said.

Mark Marot, managing director of Island Records, whose artists include Pulp and Ireland's U2, said the dominance of American acts allowed British groups to experiment and develop a unique sound.

"Over the last five years, the received wisdom has been that the U.K.'s talent has been on the wane," Marot said. "In a peculiar way that meant artists and record companies took a

step back from this blank package that 'you must break in America'."

"I am quite certain that British music is once again much more original than it was perhaps five years ago, perhaps three years ago," he said. "It's really a rediscovery of Britishness."

Just what makes this music distinctively British?

"In Blur's case they sing in almost exaggeratedly British accents," said Maconie. "The music is very melodic in a way that Pearl Jam's or Nirvana's music isn't."

"The strongest form of British music usually has got its roots in fairly straight forward melodic rhythm and blues," said Tony Crean, a spokesman for Go Discs, the record label that produced the Help charity album.

"The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Who, the Sex Pistols, Oasis and Blur — there's a line that runs through all those artists," said Crean.

Maconie said the new crop of British groups avoided the hopelessness and despair that characterised grunge. "I think the British bands are much more lighthearted... They have much more of a sense of humour."

For all the success of British groups in their home territory, they have had limited acclaim in the United States, which accounts for about 50 per cent of worldwide music sales.

"There's been such a rich vein of talent coming out of America that has been so

capable of satisfying American audiences that even the major record companies have not needed British music," said Island Records' Marot.

The nature of American radio and the importance of touring in the United States make it difficult for foreign acts to break there.

"It's a developed market for gigs," said Marot. "It seems to be no coincidence that the acts that are breaking that come from the U.K. Market — like the Cranberries, Bush, Live, Radiohead, Oasis, Blur — all of the acts are acts that play live."

A U.S. tour of two dozen dates costs about \$250,000 and a group often needs to repeat such tours two or three times.

Because U.S. radio stations favour a niche format, with stations focusing on specific genres such as country or rap, it is difficult for groups that do not fit an existing mould to get the air time that can bring record sales.

"It's not too early to say that British music is back on its feet again," said Marot. "But to say that... American music is on the wane and British music is going to rise up and take over again, I think it's far too early to say."

"Many of us feel the seeds are sown and we're going to work on it," he said. "But it might be three or four years before it becomes a reality."

## New method enables test-tube embryos to be screened for cancer

LONDON (AFP) — British doctors are to use for the first time a method that enables them to identify whether a test-tube embryo will develop cancer in later life, the Daily Telegraph reported.

The paper said the test, which would take place before the embryo was implanted in the mother, opened the way to screening out embryos at high risk of cancer, notably breast and bowel cancer.

But Robert Winston, who led the team that developed the test at Britain's largest fertility clinic at Hammersmith Hospital in West London, warned

Monday that it would "cause some furore" when it was announced to the public.

"It raises quite serious ethical issues," he told the Telegraph.

"You would be screening for a disease that does not cause childhood death but death after the age of 30 or 40," he said.

The paper pointed out that screening out such individuals could impoverish the world. It cited the physicist Albert Einstein and the composer Franz Schubert as examples of individuals who did some of their greatest work before the age of 30.

Dr. Winston first developed the technique to identify the sex of an embryo so that parents who carried disorders that would affect only boys could ensure that female test-tube babies were transferred to the mother, according to the Telegraph.

The research team then extended the technique to deciding if the embryo carried a defective gene causing a hereditary disease.

They are now assessing the ethical and technical issues involved in the fertilisation of several embryos to be screened for genes linked to a high risk of cancer, according to the Telegraph.

and brain cancer.

"I think the general feeling is that it is justifiable if the parents want it, and there is a serious chance of death," Dr. Winston told the paper.

At present, genetic assessment of embryos is carried out after the embryo has been implanted, by sampling the amniotic fluid or by examining embryonic cells in the placenta, the paper said.

The new technique may help prospective parents avoid facing the possibility of an abortion in the event of a positive test for a cancer gene, according to the Telegraph.

## Doctors split on whether to recommend obesity drug

ROCKVILLE, Maryland (AFP) — Doctors on a government panel have failed to agree on whether the possible threat of brain damage should derail a new obesity drug.

An initial vote by an advisory committee for the Food and Drug Administration rejected 5-3 the drive by Interneuron to get its weight-loss drug Dexfenfluramine approved even though tests showed it helped people lose weight.

But an emotional plea by panel member Nemat

Borhani to do something about American obesity prompted the committee to take another vote, this time on approving the drug in exchange for a guarantee from Interneuron to do massive tests on the first people who use it.

Because there were not enough members on the second vote, the matter was postponed. Though votes by advisory committees are not binding, the FDA usually follows the recommendation.

"I cannot live with my

conscience tonight," Mr. Borhani told the panel members after the first vote. "We are dealing with a very severe epidemic of obesity, without current medical treatment."

Obesity, which is defined as being more than 20 per cent above one's ideal weight, is responsible for 300,000 deaths per year in the United States, and causes 20 million new illnesses per year.

Panel members opposed to approval said Interneuron had failed to provide, when

given the chance, better information on the risks involved.

Tests have shown the drug causes brain damage when given in very high doses to animals, prompting concern about its possible effects on the thousands who would likely use it.

The company said Dexfenfluramine would be sold at much lower doses — 10 to 20 times lower — than those given to the animals.

## Surgeons perform Parkinson's treatment on brain

KANSAS CITY, Kansas (AP) — A 48-year-old Parkinson's sufferer underwent a new procedure in which an electronic device is implanted in a person's body to thwart the tremors, rigidity and other symptoms of the disease.

During the eight-hour operation at the University of Kansas Medical Centre, surgeons placed a pulse generator the size of a coin in Gary Shikles' chest. Attached to the device is a wire threaded under the skin of his neck and into a region of the brain called the globus pallidus.

Hospital spokesman Randy Atwood said it was the first such procedure —

called a pallidal stimulation — in the United States, although previous operations in this country have implanted the device into the thalamus portion of the brain.

Pallidal stimulation has been performed in Europe since the 1980s, according to Judy Rosner, executive director of the United Parkinson Foundation in Chicago.

Thalamus stimulation has significantly reduced tremors in Parkinson's patients, but it does not improve the drug-induced side effects of involuntary movements, muscular rigidity and other symptoms, medical centre officials

said. Pallidal stimulation might help where thalamus stimulation does not.

Parkinson's is a progressive, degenerative disease of unknown origin that kills off dopamine-producing neurons. A low supply of dopamine triggers overactivity in the globus pallidus.

Shikles will switch on the pulse generator by rubbing a magnet over the implanted device. That will stimulate the pallidus and jam nerve signals that cause the tremors and rigidity, the hospital said.

Adjusting the generator to full power will take doctors several days, but tests during surgery showed it was helping, Shikles' doctor

said. "He had very marked improvement in his rigidity. His movements were much more fluid," said neurosurgeon Dr. Steven Wilkinson.

An estimated 500,000 Americans have Parkinson's.

The disease causes Shikles' leg and stomach muscles to cramp painfully, and his arms and legs to flail uncontrollably.

While calling the procedure safe and noting it's reversible, Ms. Rosner cautioned, "by no stretch should it be seen as a cure or as ending progression" of the disease.

## Multiple sclerosis vaccine trial yields encouraging results

By Randi Hutter Epstein  
The Associated Press

LONDON — A very small Belgian trial suggests that a vaccine for multiple sclerosis made from a patient's own immune cells may help slow the progression of the crippling nerve disease.

Other experts were intrigued with the concept but skeptical that the vaccine would ever be a widely available cure.

The vaccine dramatically reduced the number of bouts of multiple sclerosis in eight volunteers traced for two years, said Dr. Jef Raus, one of the investigators at the Multiple Sclerosis Research and Immunology Unit in Diepenbeek, Belgium.

But he added he is "very cautious," because so few patients have been tested.

The difficulty about assessing new treatments for the disease is that it comes in bouts. It is difficult to know whether a

treatment is truly working or whether the patient would have had a few symptom-free years anyway.

The findings are published in the current issue of the Lancet, a medical journal.

Multiple sclerosis is a disease in which the patient's immune cells attack the nerves. No one knows why the body seems to turn against itself, nor is there a cure.

Immune cells target myelin, the cushioning sheath around nerve fibers. As myelin deteriorates, nerve signals go awry. Victims have trouble controlling their movements. Many patients have trouble walking. They may also suffer from blurred vision, slurred speech and tremors.

All too often, promising results from small experiments like this one do not pan out in large-scale trials.

The vaccine was made by removing a sample of

the patients' own immune cells, and then weakening the cells so they no longer work. In essence they are merely shells masquerading as defense cells.

The investigators grew these lame cells and injected a massive dose back into the patients.

Dr. Raus believes the presence of these non-working cells shuts down the body's own immune cell production. In essence, the vaccine fools the body into stopping its assault on the nervous system.

The concept is being tested in other diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes. Dr. Michael Lockshin, a multiple sclerosis expert with the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, said "this is one of a number of important immunological manipulations that both inform us about the mechanism of the disease and will possibly lead to something more direct."

"I suspect no widely available cure will result

from T-cell vaccination itself, but there may be T-cell products that can be used in one way or another," he added.

Researchers gave the eight volunteers three doses of the vaccine.

Two vaccinated patients did not suffer any bouts of the disease for at least two years after vaccination. Three patients, who had had 16 bouts of the disease in the two years prior to vaccination, suffered only three bouts during the course of the trial, said Dr. Raus.

The other three continued to have bouts of the disease. But researchers gave them another personalized vaccine made from different immune cells. After the second vaccine, the progression of the disease slowed, said Dr. Raus. In comparison, eight unvaccinated patients with multiple sclerosis showed no improvement in their disease.

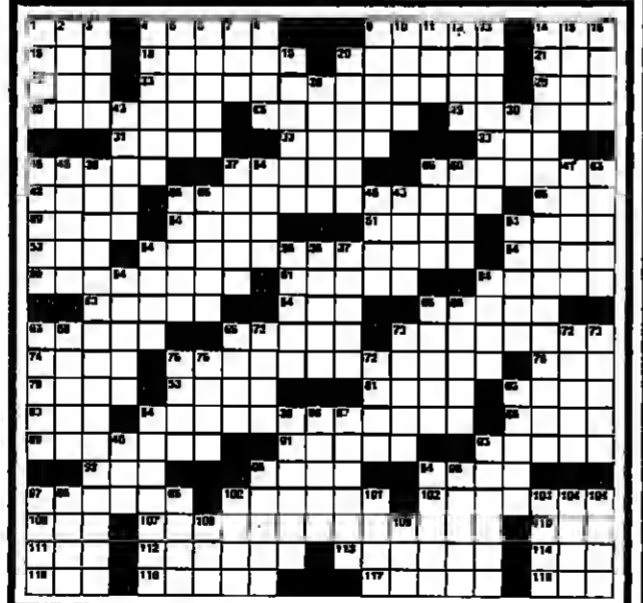
## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

COUCH POTATO FARE  
By Grace C. Pinkston

ACROSS

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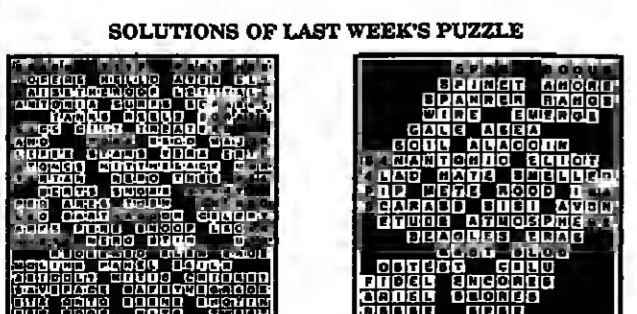


Diagramless, 17A x 19D  
By Frances Burton

ACROSS

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- 3 Saviors
- 4 Mainforest
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## Exercise alleviates PMS mood states

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Women who exercise regularly suffer less from impaired concentration, negative emotions, behavior change, and pain during premenstrual syndrome (PMS) than women who do not exercise, found a recent study in the Journal of Psychosomatic Research.

Researchers compared women who regularly exercise with healthy but generally non-exercising women drawn mainly from university undergraduates. Subjects filled out questionnaires assessing menstrual distress and overall emotions during, before, and after menstruation.

Women who exercised frequently felt better at all stages of their menstrual cycle. Women who engaged in regular, moderate, aerobic exercise experienced lower levels of anger, contempt, disgust, sadness, hostility, fear, shame, shyness, and guilt. Positive mood states such as interest, joy, and surprise were unaffected by exercise.

Among physical and

psychological symptoms associated with the menstrual cycle, pain, impaired concentration, negative affect, and behavior change were all lower among the regular exercisers.

The authors noted that "although it appears that there is some amelioration of negative mood states" with exercise, there is no clear scientific explanation for their findings. Some researchers suggest that exercise triggers the release of mood-enhancing endorphins in the body. Other researchers offer more psychological explanations such as exercise improves body image all self-confidence, thus boosting self-esteem or, exercise may act as a distraction from negative intrusive thoughts and allow more positive or self-esteem enhancing thoughts to surface.

Increased social contact that is frequently available for regular exercisers may be an added personal benefit — U.S. National Institute of Healthcare Research.

## Norplant distributor studying drug

CLEVELAND (AP) — Five years after the U.S. government approved the contraceptive Norplant, the distributor has started an inquiry into the drug's long-term effects, a newspaper reported.

Researchers at Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories asked for the study because of a lack of information, especially about the implant's

effects on teenagers, the newspaper said, quoting corporate documents.

The company wants to track many side effects of the small capsules surgically implanted in the upper arm to provide five years of continuous birth control.

More than 200 lawsuits over Norplant have been filed in the United States.

## ANSWERS BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The OBELISK (Cleopatra's Needle) originally taken from Heliopolis, Egypt, and brought to England. The second obelisk taken to New York Central Park.
2. Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar.
3. The recording, on tape, of pictures.
4. A jelly made from seaweed and used for cultivating bacteria.
5. A rum-like spirit made by distilling the juice of sugar-cane.
6. Sutte.

## PUZZLES

- (A) MENDELSSOHN.  
(B) The letter M

# What schools need: A liberal teacher's surprising answers

By William Raspberry

WASHINGTON — Albert Shanker won't dismiss the efforts at renewing, reforming and reorganising our schools. He'll stand with those who insist on more financing, tighter standards or better-trained, better-paid teachers.

But he believes these things don't have much to do with why so many of our children aren't learning.

And what does? The simple loss of discipline.

It may be an unexpected answer from the president of the American Federation of Teachers — at least if you expect union officials to support and exonerate their members while blaming their difficulties on others. But Mr. Shanker believes it is the right answer — and believes also that unless we deal with discipline none of the other reforms will make any difference.

"A lot of what we're seeing in the educational politics of the country, including the movement for choice and charter schools

and educational vouchers, is frustration with the government's inability to do the basic things that everybody knows need to be done — like ordinary discipline," he said recently.

"Parents want their children in schools where they can be safe and where there's not so much disorder that kids can't learn. And if we can't provide such a place, they say, 'give me a chance to take them somewhere else.' That's what the 'choice' movement is mostly about."

So where did discipline go? What caused the violence?

Mr. Shanker doesn't mention television or movies or gangsta rap, though he surely believes all these play a role. He puts the blame much closer to home.

"The amount of disruption in our schools is much larger than it needs to be because it is tolerated," he said. "A second-grade youngster has an outburst — maybe he curses at the teacher, or throws something at another kid, and

nothing happens. At recess, he taunts his buddies, tells them how tough he is and how chicken they are. One kid, and then another, reacts to the challenge and pretty soon you've got a classroom that's unmanageable."

The same dynamic works with older children, he said. "If the schools aren't seen as taking it seriously when a kid comes to school with a gun," he said, "you'll soon see other kids coming to school with guns — in self-defence, of course. At first, then they'll use them to intimidate, and worse. And once again, the result is an unmanageable school."

How bad is it? A majority of schools in the country are plagued with violence. There are some schools in Brooklyn and the Bronx where new teachers have lasted for as little as three days. But almost as important as outright violence is the growing incidence of substantial disruption. "At least in the worst cases of violence, students may be expelled," he said. "But when it is 'only' disruption,

teachers are forced to concentrate on one youngster, or two, and neglect the rest."

Mr. Shanker, whose union has started a campaign to restore order to schools, acknowledges that discipline "isn't the only piece" of the puzzle of academic failure, just an essential piece. It is also the one thing that private schools are free to enforce, which, Mr. Shanker argues, is one of the reasons for the growing interest in non-public schools.

The other major piece of the solution, he says, is the issue of standards, not the nebulous "each child must reach his or her potential" or the impossible "first in the world in math by 2000."

"What is needed are standards that relate to the children — that require some stretching but are still achievable."

But won't standards that "stretch" the slowest students bore the brightest, and those that challenge the brightest leave the slower students in a fog?

There is, says Mr.

Shanker, a way out: Tracking.

Again he gives the unexpected answer: Tracking has been so thoroughly castigated by Mr. Shanker's fellow liberals that hardly any moderate dares mention it.

"Parents want it," Mr. Shanker said. "They remember being left out while teachers focused on the other kids, whether those other kids were brighter or slower. They don't mind tracking as long as it includes second chances, so you don't get locked in a slow track."

But suppose the lower tracks wind up full of minority youngsters?

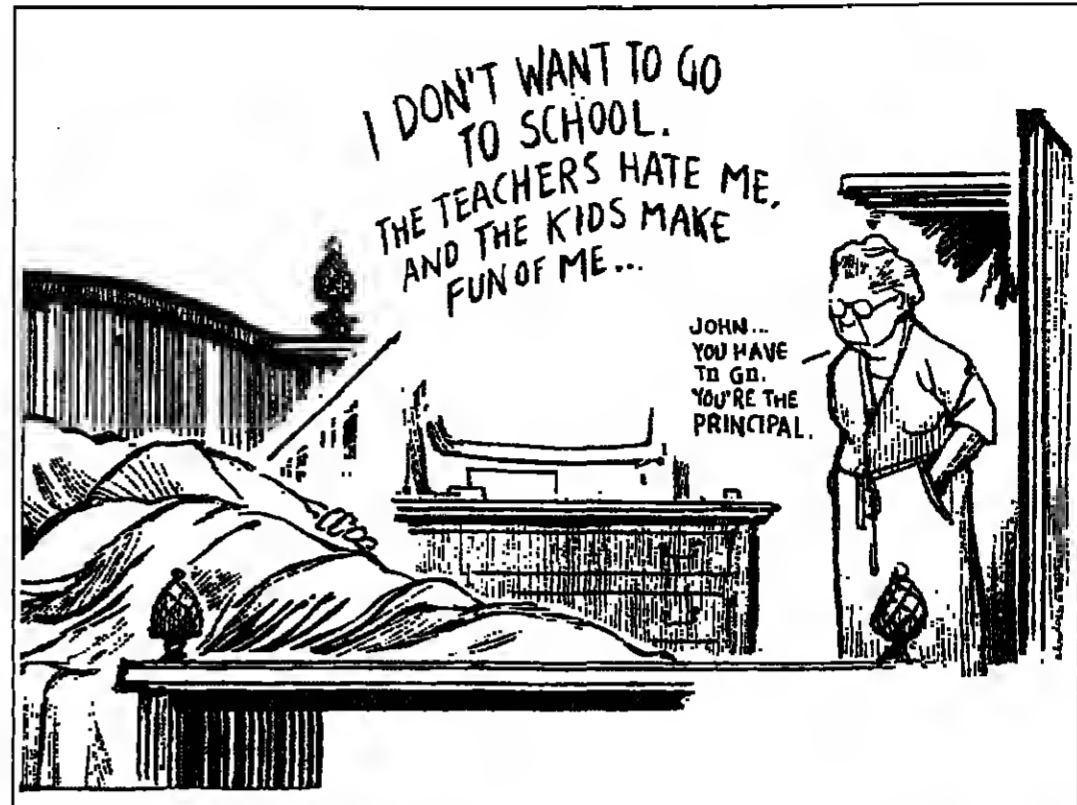
"In the inner cities, most of the discipline cases will be minority children, but so

will the beneficiaries of lessened disruption. The same is true for tracking. In the suburbs, the racial disparities on tracking or discipline are a problem, but it's just something we have to face and deal with."

After all, he said, "Running away from it, tolerating disruption and failure, is what got us in trouble in the first place."

erating disruption and failure, is what got us in trouble in the first place."

The Washington Post



## Bosnia ceasefire set

(Continued from page 1)

The ceasefire initially was planned for Monday night but was postponed because gas deliveries had not resumed to Sarajevo. Tuesday, the government proposed another 24-hour delay to secure full restoration of utilities.

In another grim pre-truce

straggling into government-held territory.

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the U.N. aid agency, said expulsions were accelerating. About 6,000 people already have been expelled and up to 8,000 more were expected in the next few days.

Relief officials were particularly concerned about the fate of draft-age Muslim men being separated from their families.

## Jordan gearing up to attract investments

(Continued from page 12)

dle East markets, the largest fund of its kind, F&C has yet to obtain permission to invest this fund in Jordanian stocks. F&C has managed to invest about \$1 million in the Amman exchange, but only through their global emerging equities fund. Omar Masri, Middle East fund manager at F&C, says that given access to the market he would consider allocating up to \$10 million to Jordan, or the equivalent of half the estimated \$20 million in foreign investment which has so far been placed in local equities.

There are plenty of economic reasons to make Jordan attractive to foreign investment. The government is delivering growth of more than six per cent a year and an annual inflation rate of about four per cent, bettering the targets set under the IMF-sponsored reform programme. The trade deficit remains too high at \$2,000 million, most analysts agree, but exports are rising and slowly closing that gap. Jordan's foreign debt has also declined sharply, particularly since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, by now about \$6,000 million, compared with a peak of \$8,000 million in 1989.

Yet Jordan's economic fortunes, and its attractiveness to investors, do not hinge

solely on sound statistics or new legislation. "Whatever happens as far as new laws are concerned, a cut in corporate taxes or, on paper at least, making it easier for foreigners to invest, this is still a rumour-and politically-driven market," says Khaled Masri, senior manager for international investment at Arab Jordan Investment Bank (AJIB).

King Hussein has exerted every effort during the past three years to create a political environment that ensures stability and guarantees the country's economic future. Relations with the Gulf are improving steadily after the nadir in 1991 following Jordan's failure to join the U.S.-led military coalition against Iraq. Strained ties with Saudi Arabia are now returning to an ambassadorial level, and even icy relations with Kuwait are beginning to thaw.

More significant was the signing of the 1994 peace agreement with Israel. Economic ties are likely to grow only cautiously with the Jewish state, as questions are still being raised about the extent to which ties between the two sides should be normalised. However, the deal has paved the way for some debt forgiveness from the West, notably the U.S., as well as

opening up new opportunities in the Palestinian market on the West Bank.

Yet it is the plight of one country, more than any other of Jordan's neighbours, which is the focus of attention for Jordan's business community and foreign investors. As Masri at AJIB explains: "Our relation to Iraq is more important to us than any potential relationship with Israel or the Palestinians, or even the Gulf." But frustratingly for King Hussein, there is almost no diplomatic pressure he has been able to exert to influence the U.N. Security Council's decision to maintain sanctions during the past four years. A decision which has had a greater economic impact than any improvement of ties with Israel or the Gulf.

Jordan's geographic fate continues to weigh heavily on its economic prospects. The investment laws will be welcomed at the Amman summit, and the economic turnaround achieved during the past five years will no doubt be applauded. But until Iraq joins the commercial world, the pension fund managers are likely to focus their gaze eastwards and on the U.N. before they are prompted to unlock the coffers that would transform Jordan's investment fortunes.

## Eco's pendulum of opinion

PORTLY, bearded and bespectacled, fluent in English after many years of hopping back and forth across the Atlantic, the professor of semiotics stands out as boldly as the aquamarine Prince-of-Wales check jacket he is wearing. Umberto Eco is our only portmanteau European intellectual — a man who travels light and continuously, and who is as convincing writing wittily about the dilemmas posed by eating peas on planes with a plastic fork, as he is profound about the worldwide revival of fascism in the 1990s.

"I felt like poisoning a monk," is how he describes the genesis of his first novel, *The Name Of The Rose*, in 1980, which sold 10m copies and became a film starring Sean Connery, looking magnificent without a toupee. But since this astounding debut, achieved at the age of 48, Eco has not jumped on his own bandwagon. His next work of fiction, *Foucault's Pendulum*, appeared nine years later in 1989. And now, a mere six years after that, we have his third novel, *The Island Of The Day Before*.

"For this novel, the motivation was different. I wanted to write about nature, but I needed an image — something that would distinguish my novelistic enterprise from an academic text. I became fascinated by the 180° meridian — what we now call the international date line. So I went to the Fiji islands, and there I swam and snorkelled. Finally, however, the book turned out to be about someone who couldn't swim — until the 19th century few people could, not even sailors. And this is how I spent the next four years, forcing myself to relearn swimming. I even found a swimming manual, written in 1697, with pictures showing you how to float."

Roberto della Griva, the *Candido* hero of *The Island Of The Day Before*, is washed up in the 17th-century South Pacific, not like Robinson Crusoe, on an island, but on an apparently deserted boat. The boat hardly contains a telescope, a collection of plants and salads, clocks, kegs of grappa and fresh water, many beautiful birds as well as egg-laying fowls; and the Panglossian Jesuit, Father Caspar, a fellow castaway who wishes to find God's benign cosmology confirmed in nature. Neither of them can swim

to the nearby island, and the centrepiece of the book consists of a wholly Ecoesque series of dialogues about nature and reality, held by the side of the boat while Roberto receives swimming lessons.

You can browse easily in Eco's journalistic flow of aperçu and anecdote in his many columns for Italian newspapers, just as you can become absorbed by his novels, which are like giant pieces of panettone, full of interesting narrative sponge packed with odd, sweet fruits of erudition, culled self-consciously from the most obscure sources. *The Name Of The Rose* was stuffed with reminiscences of Jorge Luis Borges and Arthur Conan Doyle, as well as pedantic show-off allusions to medieval theology and cooking recipes. In the new novel, the emphasis is on John Donne, the baroque, and on the epistemological misunderstandings that arose when Europeans began to look at the "new" nature of the world with excessively cultivated eyes.

Nobody ever looks at things as they are, according to Eco; instead, the mystery of the world lies in layers of delusions, or fictions. "Each period resembles the present some way or other," he says. "In the 17th century, Galileo was as important to his contemporaries as Einstein is now. But baroque is also fascinating as a symptom of overcivilisation. You can find parallels with baroque in the delusions of contemporary advertising — a Benetton image is no more 'real' than the most elaborate baroque ceiling, full of trompe l'oeils, cherubs and orange clouds. Explorers experienced nature in one way, and wrote about it in another. I had to think how my hero would have looked at coral, or mangrove trees. Well, the word mangrove didn't exist — but mangroves are called spider trees in Florida. They are trees that look as if they are walking — that's how my hero Roberto seems them."

I caught up with Eco in his small, ashtray-littered office at the University of Bologna, where he has taught semiotics ("signs — everything is semiotic, it means you can legitimately be interested in anything") for the past 20 years, in between the journalism and the novels. He had just opened a conference

in Milan dedicated to the theme of Information Utopia, and he was packing for a month's tour in Spain, Sweden and Britain, to promote his new book.

Three months ago, in the wake of the Oklahoma bombing, Eco published a heartfelt autobiographical essay in which he recalled his own membership, as a young boy, of the Mussolini youth movement, and his fascination with the violence of communist partisans. His point was that surface phenomena may change, but that underlying attitudes do not. We should therefore not assume that fascism died with Hitler and Mussolini. "I wanted to get rid of the folklore," Eco explains. "Fascism has become synonymous with the trash art of leather fetishism. In reality, the same attitudes that created fascism still exist — a hatred of foreigners, a belief in violence, the extinction of individual rights. But we shall now have to deal with them in the different forms in which they are expressed — it won't be the same story this time round. And these fascists are everywhere now — in Russia, in Yugoslavia, in Italy, Germany, even in Britain, where the skinheads began, and the football hooligans."

Eco has always been ambivalent about the claims of technology, taking issue with contemporary gurus such as Marshall McLuhan, who believed that the age of electronic enlightenment had come. I wondered whether he browsed the Internet for pleasure. Did he believe Utopia was at hand? "I browse for some hours a week only," he says. "The problem — it's a delightful one, really — is that you never know what you can find. There's too much of everything. In the end, the abundance of information can paralyse, just like the excess of food, sleep or love. A man in America has put photographs of his coloco on the Internet, and I think this is remarkable — just imagine using cyberspace to exhibit your insides in public. The future of education will consist in telling people how to select or reject information. I'm beginning to teach my students the art of decimation. How do you know something will be useful any more? How do you acquire enough information about information?"

This is better than the old Big Brother problem we had under communism, about whether you were being brain-washed or not, but I suppose it's a serious one, too."

Eco attacked Silvio Berlusconi when the latter used his concentration of media holdings to have himself elected prime minister. However, he now thinks that the problems of Italian television are deeper and less easily resolved than one man's ambitions. "I used to write about what I called hyper reality, meaning parallel or complementary versions of the world," he explains. "However, I didn't anticipate how a country could start to live through television. Everything in Italy happens on television now. It's not important to know what the president of the republic thinks, but what the television says he thinks. Of course, our television is terrible, but whether it's good or bad is beside the point in relation to its exaggerated importance. I feel that even if there were no such person as Silvio Berlusconi, a similar, perhaps even more grotesque, phenomenon would have arisen."

I wondered what period of history he would next choose as a diving ground. Was he slowly swimming forward in time, towards the present? "I don't know," he said, stuffing a number of semiotic texts into a stout carrier bag. "I need to find another image; after that the fiction will come to me. But I do hate to get rid of my novels, and I feel abandoned when I have done so. For me, writing a novel is only a pretext. You spend six years finding out about a world that interests you. Then you hope that people will find it more interesting than looking at pictures of your coloco."

At the end of *The Island Of The Day Before*, Eco's hero, still unable to swim properly, pushes himself into the water in the vain hope of cheating time by floating up or down the date line, therefore belonging neither to the past nor the present. There may be too much of everything in the late 20th-century world, but there are also things of which you can never get enough — among them, Umberto Eco.

The Sunday Times

## Brotherhood reaffirms commitment

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian cause and we support the Palestinians. But Hamas is an Islamic Palestinian faction that is directing its operations on the land of Palestine," he said.

"It is not in the interest of the Palestinian people and

from Islamic movements in other Arab countries.

"We did not face what our brothers in Egypt and Algeria had faced. The Islamic experience in Jordan is a model for Islamic action," he noted.

## Reports preempt easing of sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

were genuinely to translate its statements into action, there would be a real hope for the completion of the task entrusted to the Special Commission within a reasonable time-frame."

Scrapping of weapons of mass destruction is key to lifting the oil embargo, part of the sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The tenor of his 38-page report, however, was negative and Mr. Ekeus said the commission's preliminary analysis of new documents Iraq had revealed in August showed Baghdad had been concealing prohibited arms activities, causing the commission to revise many assessments in its early reports.

Some of the information in the report had been revealed by Mr. Ekeus in August, but Mr. Ekeus told Reuters Iraq still had not filled in all the gaps.

The report confirmed press reports in August that Iraq had hidden a large nuclear and chemical weapons programme in 1990.

The UNSCOM report also said Iraq had made "a formal, but essentially false, declaration" to the commission about "a hitherto secret offensive biological weapons programme."

That programme comprised large-scale production of biological warfare agents, filling and deploying missile warheads and aerial bombs with agents, and work of

"considerable width and depth" on developing biological arms.

The report documented Iraq's "activities aiming at the acquisition of a considerable capability for the production of the advanced nerve agent VX," but said that whether the weapons were operable was still unclear.

VX is similar to the sarin gas used earlier this year in attacks on subways in Japan. It causes shortness of breath, blurred vision and ultimately violent spasms and death.

In addition, the IAEA report said the defection of Iraqi General Hussein Kamel in August provided "useful information" about the nuclear weapons programme.

## Assad: Peace talks easier after polls

(Continued from page 1)

tions, scheduled for November next year.

Mr. Dromi stressed that Likud "completely blocked negotiations with Syria before 1992 and the right-wing opposition even rejects the principle of a withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace," accepted by the government.

"The root of the problem is that Syria wants everything now before even starting to negotiate," the spokesman added.

"Damascus wants Israel to announce today that it is ready to withdraw from the Golan to the lines of June 4, 1967, and gives up the idea of having early warning stations. No Israeli government will accept such conditions, before or after the elections," Mr. Assad stressed his

opposition to allowing Israeli early warning stations on the strategic Golan Heights, which Israel has occupied since 1967. "That symbolises the occupation," he said, calling for aerial surveillance instead.

Security arrangements to accompany any Israeli withdrawal from the Golan have become the main stumbling block to progress in the negotiations.

Mr. Assad, however, praised his U.S. counterpart Bill Clinton for his efforts to find a solution. "President Clinton is a man who wants a just peace," he said.

Mr. Assad explained that Syria would not take part in the forthcoming Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Amman because it regarded such meetings as a threat to Arah and an

attempt to destroy the Arah League.

Lebanon is also boycotting the summit in Amman. Israel and about 60 other nations will attend.

The Syrian president said that economic development in the Middle East would be better served by countries concluding treaties with countries such as Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan.

"Such summits are of no benefits. The direct aim is to normalise without (full) peace and to put pressure on those who did not. This is why we will not attend," Mr. Assad added.

"The Middle Eastern market is an economic and political concern for Israel because it will arrange the economy in a way that makes the road open more towards the enemies," he said.

## Israel

(Continued from page 1)

ploy troops from six cities and parts of a seventh, and hand over control of some 450 villages, towns and refugee camps to Palestinian police.

Under the accord, Israel will retain overall security responsibility in rural areas. While Palestinian police will maintain law and order in the villages, Israeli troops are entitled to enter the villages.

Israel said on Wednesday it freed nearly 900 Palestinians in the first prisoner release of the West Bank peace deal, despite PLO expectations many would refuse to go to show solidarity with inmates left behind.

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said that of more than 5,000 prisoners held by Israel, 882 were set free on

Tuesday — 507 jailed for security offences against the occupation and 375 convicted of crimes.

Mr. Bar-Chen said Israel was ready to hand over a further 84 convicted criminals to the PNA, bringing the total to 966, but the authority had yet to send someone to collect them.

Scores of freed prisoners returned home to a tearful welcome on Tuesday, even though the PLO said many would refuse to go in protest at what the PLO said was Israel's broken promise to free all women prisoners.

Mr. Bar-Chen said he knew of three convicted criminals who refused to go. A military spokesman said he was checking whether any prisoners jailed for security offences had also refused to go in protest.

## Iran cuts imports to pay foreign debt, diplomats say

DUBAI (R) — Iran has slashed imports from its major trading partners so that it can build up enough hard currency reserves to service its foreign debt, diplomats in Tehran say.

They said Iran has reduced purchases of goods from Germany, Japan, Britain, Italy and France by up to half this year so that it can begin to service a rescheduled annual debt of between \$5 billion and \$6 billion.

"The cutback in imports, which we saw last year, is continuing this year ... the country is keeping its import bill to the minimum," a Western diplomat in Tehran told Reuters.

Ability to service its total estimated debt of \$30 billion may determine whether Iran can secure further foreign investment to finance industrial expansion projects in its second five-year plan (1995-2000), diplomats say.

Iran managed to cut its imports to \$12.6 billion in the last Iranian year (March 1994-March 1995) from an unsustainable level of \$24 billion in 1991-1992, official

state figures show. Although oil revenues increased between January and May because of higher oil prices — Iran is the world's second largest oil exporter — the clampdown on imports, particularly on manufactured goods, is still evident in the first few months of this Iranian year (March 1995-March 1996), diplomats say.

Tehran's wish to build currency reserves is also seen in its enforcing stringent currency exchange laws that require most exporters to repatriate their hard currency earnings and a clampdown on currency smuggling out of the country.

Statistics from trade missions in Tehran show that the Iranian authorities are keeping tight controls over import levels despite warnings from local businessmen that a lack of imported spare parts and manufactured goods could hit local industry and hamper economic growth.

Imports from Germany, Iran's main Western trading partner, in the first four months of 1995 fell a further 25 per cent compared to the

same period last year to \$666 million, official embassy statistics show.

German exports alone fell 37 per cent in 1994 from 1993.

Japan's trade with Iran, mainly exports of machinery and equipment spare parts, has dropped by nearly half in the first six months of the year to \$350 million from \$661 million in the corresponding period in 1994.

French trade has fallen 10 per cent in the first half of the year to some \$300 million and Italian trade halved to \$124 million in the first three months of 1995.

British exports have held steady, according to statistics up to the end of July which show Iran imported \$318 million worth of British goods and services, compared to \$316 million in the same period last year.

Iran is also limiting imports from outside the major trading countries. Last month parliament banned imports of soft drinks, chocolate and toys as non-essential goods.

## IMF and World Bank pledge more help for member nations

WASHINGTON (R) — IMF and World Bank leaders pledged Tuesday to do more to help their 180 member nations cope with the vast changes sweeping across the world economy.

Speaking at the formal opening of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Bank, the two leaders warned rich nations against turning their backs on the poor, and developing countries against trying to wall themselves off from an increasingly competitive and open world economy.

"The developing countries deserve our support for moral and social reasons," new World Bank President James Wolfensohn said. "But they also need our support because they represent future growth for us all."

Mr. Wolfensohn, who has only been on the job for four months, unveiled his new vision for the off-criticized institution, calling for a compact between the bank, donor countries and borrowers to build a better future for the world's poorest.

He promised to break what he called the "armlock" that bureaucracy has placed on the 6,000-strong bank and hindered it from accomplishing its goal of eradicating global poverty.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told the meeting his organization was working on ways to prevent and contain future Mexico-style economic crises, where billions of dollars can flee countries at the flick of a computer switch.

On the surface, the world economy has not looked brighter for a long time.

Growth in the industrial countries is picking up after a pause earlier this year. Inflation is the lowest it has been in a generation. And many developing countries are doing better as well.

"World economic growth in 1995 will be at least as strong as in 1994, and 1996 could see the strongest growth in eight years," Mr. Camdessus said.

But the short-term outlook is clouded by a longer-term question — is the only superpower turning its back on the

rest of the world?

Eager to cut bulging budget deficits to ensure prosperity and freed of responsibilities for fighting the cold war, the United States is turning its attention to domestic economic problems it has long ignored.

The immediate focus of concern at the annual meeting was the future of the International Development Association (IDA), an \$18-billion World Bank affiliate that lends money to the world's poorest nations at no interest charge.

Tight-fisted U.S. lawmakers are poised to slash U.S. contributions to IDA, and other rich nations are threatening to follow suit.

"If there is a seriously under-funded IDA, we will be faced with a world of increasingly unstable nations," Mr. Wolfensohn said. "Some of the ministers here today will have to abandon clean water supply... or for moving soldiers out of barracks and into small farms."

## France blames budget, franc woes on speculators

PARIS (R) — The French government, reeling from a crippling civil servant strike and a falling franc, blamed Anglo-Saxon currency speculators Wednesday for its woes.

Government spokesman Francois Baroin vowed to resist foreign exchange markets, which he said were trying to damage the franc to push the government to trim budget deficits.

"The markets, mainly British and U.S., wanted to stare a speculative run on the franc. They wanted to send a message to the government which said: We do not want to see your deficits so high, make an effort and above all, don't give in to the public sector," Mr. Baroin said on French radio France Inter.

"Well, the government does not want to sacrifice its public sector to meet the interests of foreign investors," he said.

The public sector staged

Tuesday's 24-hour strike to protest against the government's refusal to grant a general pay rise.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe has insisted that civil servants' pay must be kept under control to trim the deficits and lay the groundwork for future economic growth and lower unemployment.

But financial markets are sceptical of his ability to hold the line on public sector wages and keep a promise to cut the budget deficit from five per cent to three per cent of gross domestic product in the next two years, analysts say.

In recent years France has made a habit of sniping at "Anglo-Saxon" currency speculators, who it accuses of trying to break the link between the franc and the German mark, the keystone of a future single European currency.

## Arab Gulf economies set to grow in 1995 — study

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The economies of six Arab Gulf oil producers are projected to grow by around 2.1 per cent in 1995 because of reforms and improvement in crude prices, a bank study published in the UAE daily Al Khaleej has said.

The gross domestic product (GDP) of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is forecast to reach \$207.6 billion in 1995 compared with \$203.2 billion in 1994, showed the study by Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

The study showed the economies of all member states would record positive growth rates after a decline in the GDP of some members in the previous year.

Saudi Arabia's GDP, which accounts for nearly a quarter of the total GDP of the Arab League's 22 members, would likely rise to around \$122 billion in 1995 from \$120.8 billion in 1994, Mr. Azzam said.

The UAE GDP is projected to grow to around \$38 billion from \$36.6 billion and Kuwait's to \$24.2 billion from \$22.9 billion. Bahrain, Oman and Qatar are also expected to record small growth rates.

Mr. Azzam gave no projections for oil prices but Gulf analysts expect them to average more than \$16 by the end of the year. This compares with \$15.5 in 1994 and \$16.33 in 1993.

Oil provides more than 80 per cent of the GCC's total income and 30-40 per cent of their GDP. The decline in crude prices over the past decade has slowed down Gulf economies and turned a budget surplus into a deficit.

Most GCC countries have launched privatisation programmes and other reforms to revive their economies. The reforms were coupled with cuts in state expenditure to contain the growing shortfall.

Mr. Azzam's figures showed the combined GCC deficit was slashed to a projected \$10.8 billion in 1995 from \$17 billion in 1994 and a record \$57.8 billion in 1991, when Gulf states made huge

payments to finance an international drive to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

The decline was mainly due to a sharp cut in the Saudi deficit, which was slashed to \$4 billion from \$10.6 billion. Kuwait's shortfall was also trimmed to \$4.5 billion from \$4.9 billion.

The measures pushed down the combined GCC deficit to 5.2 per cent of the GDP in 1995 from 8.4 per cent in 1994. The 1995 figure was the lowest since 1989.

"The GCC budgets over the past few years were of a contracted nature, which could be considered as the beginning of a tangible change in the policies of general expenditure and the government role in the economy," Mr. Azzam said.

"It is obvious the Gulf governments have decided to adopt the principle of spending within the available resources to restore financial balance and put a brake on the racing deficit and debt," he added.



### Peanuts



### Andy Cap



### Mutt'n'Jeff



## China approved 474 state mergers, bankruptcies

BEIJING (R) — China has identified 474 state-owned enterprises that could be merged or declared bankrupt in an attempt to eliminate loss-making industries in 18 pioneer cities, the China Securities said.

Of the 474 enterprises, 161 have started the process of going bankrupt, it said, quoting Chen Qinglai, vice-minister of the state Economic and Trade Commission.

Of these, 58 state firms have already declared bankruptcy, 20 are in the process of going bankrupt and 83 are about to start down the road to liquidation, he said.

China has been trying to force lumbering state enterprises to go bankrupt, but has slowed its efforts amid fears that breaking the taboo from the days of central planning could spark mass unemployment and social unrest.

Debts of the 58 bankrupt firms totalled 3.2 billion yuan (\$385 million), while total assets stood at 1.87 billion yuan (\$227 million), Mr. Chen said.

The bankrupt firms have found jobs for 99 per cent of their 53,000 employees, he added.

The government would exempt companies that merge from interest payments on loans or suspend interest to encourage mergers, he said.

A total of 7.79 billion yuan (\$938 million) in bank interest, or 3.13 per cent of unpaid principal and interest on loans, would be suspended or scrapped if all the companies concerned were to merge with other companies, he said.

In southern Jiangsu province, a debt-ridden state firm was put up for auction by a court in Dongtai city, the legal daily said. The food company had had debts \$10,000 yuan (\$37,349) and no way to repay, it said.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Don't permit others to influence you where important decisions are concerned today. Show that you have good judgement.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your ideas may be different from those of a higher-up at this time, but don't jump to any conclusions which could be erroneous.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you keep any promises you have made to close friends and loved ones and don't chase after new ones at this time. This evening is fine for cleaning house.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Your intuition may not be working properly today so be sure to use your best judgement, for your intuition has always been a good measuring device.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Some morning agreement reached with an outside partner can later today turn into a disagreement unless you use tact and diplomacy in handling a situation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Labour starts off well early this morning, but later today there can be delays, so be practical instead of swiftly losing your temper.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Count the cost well before you get into amusements which could prove to be well beyond your ken. Show that you are thoughtful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The situation at home could get really bothersome if you do not use tact with close ties and fellow associates who can be of assistance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There may be pressures all around you today, but try to maintain poise and charm others into accepting whatever decisions you have developed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Go over your holdings precisely and know what your true position is about a new assignment and plan the future more intelligently.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to make drastic changes in your career objectives because you feel discontented but you should maintain the status quo and not make any alterations.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may feel restricted, and ready to jump out of your gourd today, but it is the time to remain calm, cool and collected to make the right decisions.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1995  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You understand how to expand in your interests in the morning, and later today you can get right at them and solve problems.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) This morning is fine for going after your personal ambitions and gaining them in a successful manner, but later do not be forceful towards any associates.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get into the bustling business world early and get a good deal accomplished, but safeguard your reputation against negative situations.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You get fine ideas in the morning today and should carry through with them vigorously since later the aspects are not satisfactory.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can improve your romantic life in the morning today, by doing something thoughtful for the one you love and the reaction will be reciprocated.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Using more modern mechanisms where your career activities are concerned can save time and energy today and gain you greater efficiency.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may get an invitation early in the morning today, which should be accepted and later clear up any blockage in your capabilities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Endeavour to find some way of establishing greater harmony at home today in the morning, but don't upset anyone there this evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Some added phase to correspondence which will get quick attention would be wise today, but later tonight be more conventional in your attitude.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This morning is the best time to come to decisions concerning any problematical affairs, and ingenuity will gain you more assets for the future.

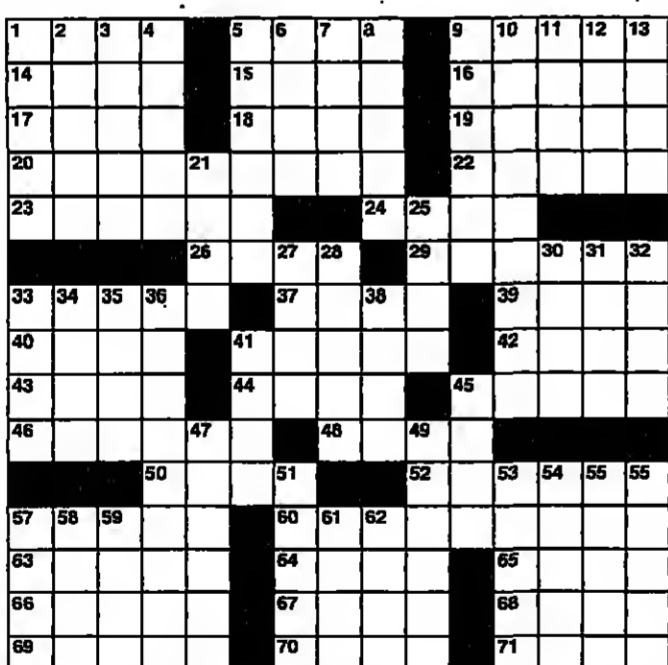
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are able to gain your personal wishes today if you get an early start on them. Confide in your pals who can also be of assistance on a new assignment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You get excellent ideas for your progress in the morning today, so note them down, but later tonight don't change any plans you have made.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

## THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

- ACROSS  
1 Neil  
5 Burglarizes  
9 Planned secretly  
14 — breve  
15 Haaps  
16 "Have — day"  
17 Authentic  
18 Flat-topped elevation  
19 Lunar valley  
20 Game fish  
22 Gannel  
23 Disposable handkerchief  
24 NC college  
26 Town on the Thames  
29 Forbid  
33 Unit of capacitance  
37 Judge's garment  
39 Baseball name  
40 Off center  
41 Vacuum flask inventor  
42 Tissue unit  
43 Weather stat.  
44 "A" — apple  
45 Toast  
46 Math term  
48 Sports org.  
50 Best of Ferber  
52 Liqueurs  
57 Stringed instrument  
60 Gambling game  
63 Bellowing  
64 River of Belgium and France  
65 Penny's creator  
66 Old weapon  
67 Alcoholic beverage  
68 Avian weapon  
69 Goes by ox wagon  
70 — of Cleves  
71 Makes lace



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Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- DOWN  
1 Corday's victim  
2 Resin  
3 Flal, broad pieces  
4 Drags  
5 Aircraft engine type  
6 Olive genus  
7 Winter pear  
8 Wager  
9 Clergyman  
10 British national flag  
11 Cultivate  
12 USC rival  
13 Hammer part  
17 Regretted  
21 Malicious look  
27 Native metals  
28 Kind of predicament  
30 Buttrine  
31 KS town  
32 Void's partner  
33 Domino or Waller  
34 Actor Baldwin  
35 Italia's capital  
36 Brandy type  
38 Judge's seat  
41 Mend  
45 Scottish garment  
47 Honors  
49 Consent  
51 Large snake  
53 Throw out  
54 Gibbs or Maples  
55 Dazzling display  
56 Distorts  
57 Certain  
58 European  
59 Sandarac  
60 Irea  
61 Not any  
62 Legal right  
63 — example (for instance)

OCTOBER 12-13, 1995

HOROSCOPE

PREFACE FOR THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 12, 1995  
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business  
daily  
beat

A review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic press

Gas exists  
in huge  
quantities  
south of  
Al Rishah  
gas field

★ THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA), Fakhraddin Al Daghistani, confirmed a previous report carried by Al Dustour that huge quantities of gas exist to the south of Al Rishah gas field. The quantities, Dr. Daghistani said, may enable Jordan to operate all its power stations in the future by gas. The NRA chief pointed out that the National Oil Company is drilling wells in the new field, which, along with the 5,000-square-kilometre Al Rishah field, is considered a concessionary area for the company for 50 years. Under the concession terms, the National Oil Company would get 50 per cent of the discovered gas. Dr. Daghistani indicated that Jordan's problems in searching for gas were related to advanced technology which the company would overcome from its gas sale income and from leasing its experience and its drillers to the countries interested in exploring for oil gas (Al Dustour).

★ JORDAN'S OUTPUT of olive this year is expected to be 75,000 tonnes of which 60,000 tonnes will be allocated for producing olive oil and 15,000 tonnes for olive preserves. According to a senior agricultural official, the plantation of olive trees in the Kingdom has reached 70 per cent of all fruit trees plantations and covered 800,000 dunums planted with eight million trees. The official indicated that Jordan's olive oil is of the best quality in the world since it is free of any chemical treatment (Al Dustour).

★ THE INDUSTRIAL Estates Corporation responded favourably to the request of the Amman Chamber of Industry to postpone raising rents of buildings and lands at the Sahab Industrial City by five per cent for two years. In this regard, the corporation's board of directors agreed to freeze the increase for 1996/1997 (Al Ra'i).

★ THERE ARE 91 registered public libraries in Jordan containing nearly half a million books. The number of university libraries stand at 14 while at community colleges there are 53 libraries and at secondary schools 493 libraries. There are also 30 children's libraries and 80 specialised libraries (Al Ra'i).

★ THE FOOD and Environment Control Department at the Municipality of Greater Amman destroyed 5,656 tonnes of food unfit for consumption during the past three months. The department closed 691 shops for violating public health standards, issued 774 warnings and fined 2,033 establishments on health grounds (Al Ra'i).

★ THE FINANCIAL committee of the Municipality of Greater Amman (MoGA) is currently studying the 1996 budget which, according to sources, amounts to JD 62 million. Of the total, 60 per cent is for capital expenditure and 40 per cent is for recurrent spending. The deficit is about JD 5 million (Al Ra'i).

★ THE PALESTINIANS intend to submit eight projects at the economic summit in Amman. The projects will be in the sectors of transport, infrastructure, energy, industrial estates, vocational programmes and technology transfer. The Palestinian delegation to the summit will include 62 members headed by Yasser Arafat (Al Ra'i).

Israel's Koor prepares global share offering

TEL AVIV (R) — Executives from Koor Industries, a powerhouse of Israeli industry, began a four-week road show Wednesday in preparation for the first global public share offering by an Israeli company.

Analysts predict the November offering will be a success. "The company is very well managed. It is the most likely to succeed among private Israeli companies," said Keith Phillips of Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull.

Because Koor, which means "melting pot" in Hebrew, is so diversified, "people will feel they are buying a little bit of Israel," he said.

Koor — Israel's largest and most profitable holding company according to Dun Bradstreet — filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for an offering of 6.95 million American depositary shares, representing 1.39 million ordinary shares. The shares will be priced in early November.

A possible pitfall is that many potential investors already own Koor shares traded in Tel Aviv, Mr. Phillips said.

Koor plans to raise up to \$150 million from the offering.

ing, to be used to retire debt and expand in tourism, real estate and multimedia. It will also look for acquisitions abroad, especially Asia, in its core businesses: Building materials, telecommunications and electronics, chemicals, food and energy.

Smith Barney for the first time has been chosen to lead a public offering by an Israeli company, along with Lehman Brothers. UBS will manage the offering in Europe while Schroeder Wertheim, Oppenheimer and BZW will act as co-managers.

The ADSS, representing 10 per cent of the company's market capitalisation, will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the SEAQ in London.

While some 60 Israeli companies are listed on Wall Street, most are traded over the counter.

One Tel Aviv financial source, who asked not to be named, said Koor should be listed on the NYSE because "it will trade more like a blue chip."

A Koor subsidiary — electronics maker Tadiran — trades on the NYSE as well

as Tel Aviv.

Koor's offering follows recent failures by other prominent Israeli companies to issue shares for the first time abroad.

The Israeli market believes Koor will be different.

The recent purchase by Shamrock Holdings, the investment arm of the Disney family, of 22.5 per cent of Koor, signals "to the world market that they made a due diligence and it is worth investing in Israel and in Koor," a financial source said.

In the past four months, Koor's market value has grown from \$900 million to \$1.2 billion. According to UBS, the shares are still undervalued, trading at a price/earnings ratio of 9.4, compared with 18.5 average for the sector.

Analysts say the Koor offering will be a test case for other Israeli companies wishing to venture into foreign markets.

"Another failure will not be good news," Mr. Phillips said.

Financial  
Markets

Jordan Times  
in co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 10/10/95	Tokyo Close 11/10/95
Sterling Pound	1.5781	1.5776**
Deutsche Mark	1.4181	1.4183
Swiss Franc	1.4483	1.4513**
French Franc	4.9595	4.9733**
Japanese Yen	100.73	100.87
European Currency Unit	1.2939	1.2924**

\*\* USD For STG  
\* European Currency Unit (ECU) = 1.936 DM

European Currency Unit

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.68	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.56
Deutsche Mark	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.81
Swiss Franc	1.98	2.00	2.00	2.00
French Franc	5.66	5.66	5.62	5.62
Japanese Yen	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.18
European Currency Unit	5.65	5.65	5.65	5.65

Interest rate for 3 months U.S. Dollars 1.00000 or equivalent.

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First kosher McDonald's  
opens in Israel

MEVASERET, Israel (R) — Religious Jews in Israel can now buy a Big Mac without the cheese after the opening Wednesday of McDonald's first kosher restaurant.

The fast-food restaurant in occupied Jerusalem's suburb of Mevaseret adheres to kosher dietary laws banning the mixing of dairy and meat products. It also closes on the Jewish Sabbath.

"Delicious," declared Yael Haggag, who took the first bite into a kosher Big Mac, priced at \$3.20. The 11-year-old girl said her mother insisted she keep kosher.

Burger King, McDonald

Corp's main rival, already has a kosher branch in occupied Jerusalem.

"This is a big market in Israel, where about 30 per cent are kosher," said Omri Padan, the licensee for Israel's 18 McDonald's franchises.

Religious Jews do not mix milk and meat, adhering to the Biblical commandment in Exodus 23:19: "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in its mother's milk."

A Hebrew certificate under the bright red McDonald's sign attests to its kosherness. Getting it was not easy.

Senior official of British  
Bank of the M.E. ends visit

AMMAN — Mr. Amman Mehta, 48, newly appointed deputy chairman (designate) of the British Bank of the Middle East (BBME) has just completed a two-day trip to Jordan which included a reception for customers and government officials, visits to the bank's branches, meeting staff and reviewing operations.

Mr. Mehta, accompanied by his predecessor David Howells, who is retiring, was welcomed by James Gibson, CEO of BBME Jordan.

"Mr. Mehta has a wealth of international banking experience including four years in the Middle East with one of our sister companies in the HSBC Group, the Saudi British Bank," said James Gibson.

Mr. Mehta, who is currently the chairman and chief executive of HSBC Holdings, Inc., based in New York City, said he is looking forward to his assignment with BBME which was one of the earliest members of the HSBC Group, dating back to 1959.

UAE eyes \$3b in  
offset investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has identified hundreds of projects worth more than \$3 billion which it hopes would be invested by potential arms suppliers under an offset scheme it introduced five years ago, officials said Wednesday.

The UAE Offset Group (UOG), set up in 1990, has drawn up ideas for the nearly 600 local enterprises which could be carried out by foreign investors in participation with the local private sector.

The UOG deal flow contains an excess of 600 projects and project ideas proposed by offset contractors and local and international investors. This means UOG manages an excess of \$3 billion in offset obligations," he told an international investment conference in Abu Dhabi.

Mr. Badruddin gave no details of the projects but the UAE is giving priority to the

industrial sector to lessen reliance on unpredictable oil earnings, which account for more than 80 per cent of its total income.

Under offset programmes, weapon exporters are required to reinvest in domestic projects that would yield up to 60 per cent of the deal's value in seven years. Any offset project must cost at least \$10 million

## Newcomer Philippoussis downs Edberg

TOKYO (AP) — Newcomer Mark Philippoussis of Australia blasted Stefan Edberg off the court 6-0, 6-2 Wednesday in the second round of the \$1 million Seiko Super Tennis tournament.

Edberg's slices and touch volleys weren't able to stop the 1.94-metre, fast-moving 18-year-old, who had two speeds on lightning serves and booming groundstrokes: hard and harder.

Edberg, a 29-year-old Swede who was once World No. 1, and a two-time champion here, has slipped to 20th in the rankings and was seeded fifth. His next match will be his 1,000th in 12 years as a professional.

"He was entranced today," Edberg said of his opponent, whom he beat in a tough four-setter at the Australian Open earlier in the year. "He was playing like from another planet."

Philippoussis, too, felt "very good" with his game and said his goal was to finish the year ranked in the top 50.

"The way I'm playing now, there's no reason why I can't play with the top players and beat them," he said, noting that he'd overcome Todd Martin, the sixth seed here, at a tournament in Scottsdale, Arizona, earlier this year.

Martin was broken twice and dropped the first set Tuesday but fought back to overcome England's Jeremy Bates, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Martin mixed serve-and-volley tennis with well-placed groundstroke passing shots to move into the third round against Henrik Holm of Sweden.

Holm served and volleyed his way on the fast indoor carpet over 12th seed mark Woodforde of Australia 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3).

Top seed Michael Chang easily handled Dick Norman of Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.

Former French Open champion and third seed Sergi Bruguera also had an easy time, handing world No. 134 Leander Paes a 6-3, 6-0 defeat in which he moved the Indian around almost at will during the second set.

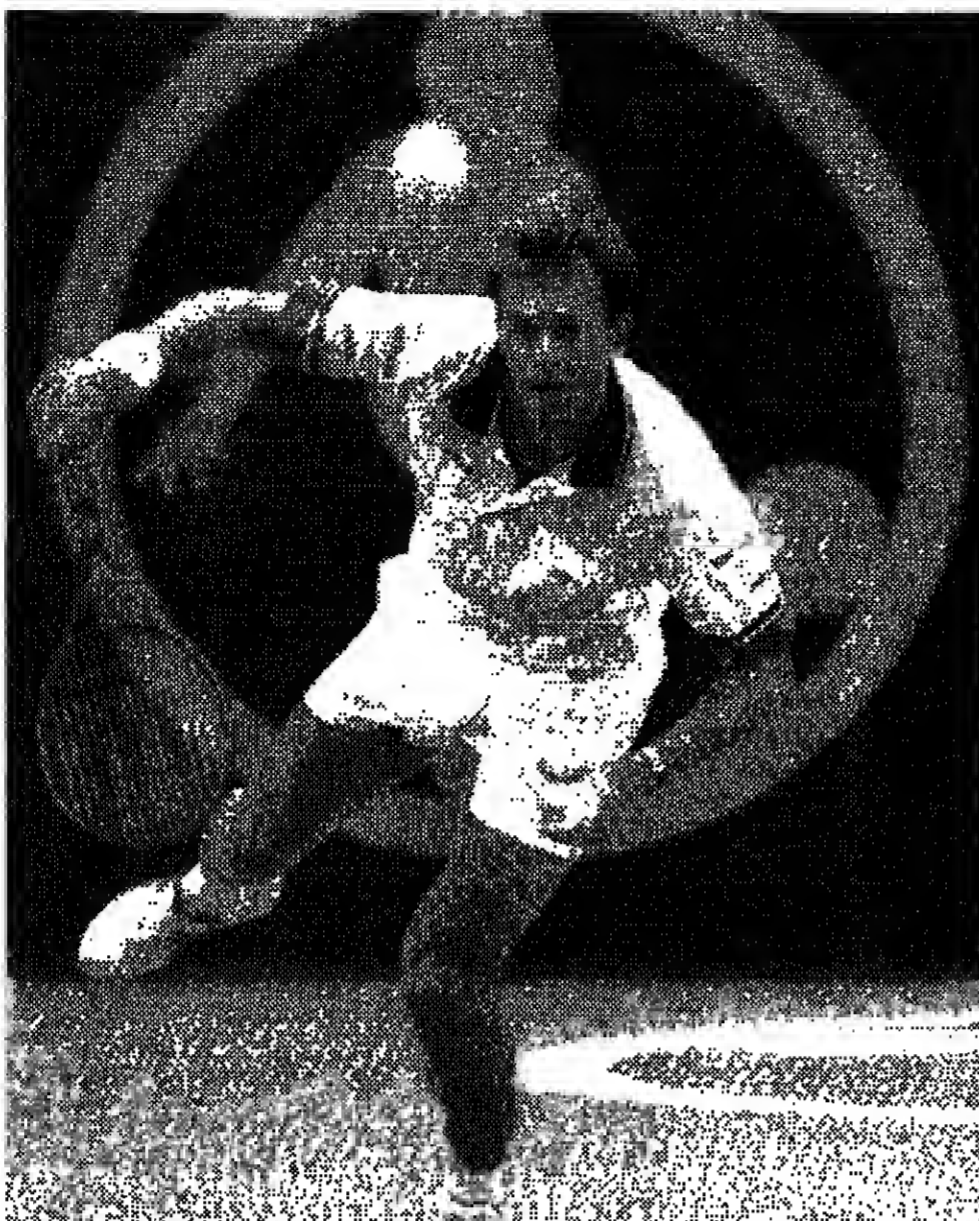
Philippoussis, in his first full year on the professional tour, last week reached a career-high rank of 60 after losing in the finals to Chilean left-hander Marcelo Rios in a tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Rios, a slight, pony-tailed 19-year-old who leaves the ground on both right- and left-handed groundstrokes, lost Wednesday to American journeyman Jonathan Stark, 6-7 (6-8), 6-4, 6-4. Rios, ranked 27th and the 10th seed here, cursed himself disgustedly after he was unable to convert two break points in the final game of the match.

Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, the seventh seed, fell to Hendrik Dreekmann of Germany, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4, 6-2.

In the day's first matches, ninth seed Alexander Volkov of Russia beat Dutchman Fernon Wibier, 7-5, 6-2, and 11th seed Brett Steven of New Zealand overcame Cristiano Caratti of Italy, 6-4, 6-2.

Steven and Philippoussis faces each other in the third round.



Fifth seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden concentrates on his serve during his second round match against mark Philippoussis (Reuters photo)

## Match ends when Kasparov agrees to a draw

NEW YORK (AP) — World Chess champion Gary Kasparov drew the 18th game of his championship match against Viswanathan Anand in only 12 moves Tuesday, winning the monthlong contest and the \$900,000 first prize.

The fight for the world chess crown actually was over on Monday, when the game ended in a draw, giving Kasparov a lead of 10 to 7. He needed 10.5 points to win the 20-game match. In the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov would have kept his title but been forced to split half the \$1.35 million prize money with Anand.

Kasparov, with the advantage of the white pieces, played for less than 13 minutes Tuesday before reaching the draw that secured his victory, 10.5 points to 7.5.

"I hope you all had a lot of fun with the event, especially today's nail-biting finish," Anand said laughing at the prize-giving ceremony on the 107th floor of the World Trade Centre, where the match began Sept. 10.

Anand will receive \$450,000 from the Professional Chess Association, which sponsored the match.

Kasparov agreed that the rapid end to the game "could be disappointing to the public."

"The match for the title was over yesterday," the 32-year-old Russian said. "We played four games a week ... and we are both exhausted."

The 20-game series started with a record-



Title holder Gary Kasparov of Russia (left) shakes hands with challenger Viswanathan Anand at the end of the Intel World Chess Championship (Reuters photo)

breaking series of eight draws. Anand won the ninth game, but Kasparov hit back immediately, crushing his opponent in the 10th game. He then won the 11th game after Anand made what experts described as "a hideous blunder."

Anand's error came in a position in an endgame that experts said was likely to end in a draw. After thinking for only a minute, Anand — known in Spain as "Vishy the quick one" — saw a chance to win and moved a knight

into Kasparov's position. Kasparov, playing black, lashed out with a rook sacrifice to win two pawns and regain the rook. Facing a hopeless position, Anand resigned two moves later.

Anand recovered to draw the 12th game, but went down in the 13th and 14th, leaving himself in a hopeless match situation. Kasparov was able to coast home with a series of draws in the final four games.

At the right moment,

he took his chances and I didn't," Anand said. "that made the difference."

Experts said the 25-year-old Indian never fully recovered from the shock of his blunder nor regained his psychological balance against his experienced opponent.

Kasparov said his victory in New York would be nearly as memorable as his first championship win, in 1985. He has successfully defended his title five times since then.

Kasparov said he was

pleased that, unlike previous encounters with arch-rival Anatoly Karpov, this match had "no animosity."

"I'm sure we are going to stay friends," he said. Intel, the computer chip maker based in Santa Clara, California, sponsored the championship.

Kasparov also said the match an important breakthrough for the commercial sponsorship of chess. "The era of professional chess has started," he said.

## Murphy makes winning return

CHEPSTON, Wales (R) — Jump jockey Declan Murphy made a victorious return to the saddle on Tuesday — 17 months after a sickening fall left him in a coma and fighting for his life.

He partnered the Geoff Lewis trained fibreen to victory in a seven-furlong (1.4-kilometre) flat V jump jock-

eys challenge race. The 28-year-old Irishman came back to a hero's reception after making all the running on the heavily backed 3-1 favourite to win by three-quarters of a length.

"Words can't describe how I feel," said Murphy. "I've never thought there was a feeling like this in my life. I

just don't want to set off the cloud I'm on. What felt like a dream for 17 months has just become reality. I've achieved some good victories in my life but nothing like this."

Murphy fractured his skull in five places when he was kicked by his mount after falling at baydock last May.

## No place for \$9.6m striker

OSLO (R) — Expensive striker Les Ferdinand will not even be on the England substitutes' bench for Wednesday night's soccer friendly against Norway.

After losing out to Alan Shearer on Tuesday in the

tussle to spearhead Terry Venables' attack, Ferdinand was not among the five substitutes named on Wednesday.

Tottenham's Teddy Sheringham was preferred over front, despite scoring just

once in 10 internationals. Ferdinand, bought in June for \$6 million (\$9.6 million), has hit 11 goals for Newcastle since the beginning of the season, but Sheringham is possibly in the best form of his life for Spurs with 10 goals in the last six games.

## Americans draw Mexico in Davis Cup first round

LONDON (AP) — The United States will host Mexico in the first round of next year's Davis Cup, a favorable pairing that should give the Americans a relatively smooth road to the semifinals.

Russia, which faces the United States in December for the 1995 title, was drawn Tuesday to play at Italy in the Feb. 9-11 opening round of 1996.

Germany, beaten by Russia in the semifinals last month, will play at Switzerland. Sweden, semifinal loser to the United States, will be at home against Belgium.

The draw sets the stage for replays of this year's semifinals, with Russia and Germany drawn in the top half of the bracket and the United States and Sweden in the

bottom half. "From an interest point of view, Mexico is a good draw for us," said United States Tennis Association President Les Snyder. "You never know about the outcome, but we're happy with the draw."

"It's difficult for us to think too far ahead with the finals for this year still coming up with Russia," Snyder added.

Mexico, which returns this year to the 16-team world group bracket, lost 3-2 to the United States in the first round of the Davis Cup in 1991 to a team headed by Brad Gilbert and Jim Courier.

Mexico's top-ranked player is Oscar Ortiz at No. 242, followed by Luis Herrera (260), Alejandro Hernandez (307) and Leonardo Lavalle

(348). By contrast, the Americans head into the Dec. 1-3 finals in Moscow with a team likely to be headed by world No. 1 Andre Agassi and No. 2 Pete Sampras.

Snyder said the Mexico match was likely to be played in the southwestern United States. He said a team captain would probably be named before the final in Russia, with current captain Tom Gullickson reported likely to continue.

Other world group first-round pairings pit Austria at South Africa, Denmark at France, the Netherlands at India and Hungary at the Czech Republic.

Second-round matches are April 5-7 with the semifinals scheduled for Sept. 20-22 and the finals Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

## World gymnasts warned about hormone doping

SABAE, Japan (AFP) — World gymnastics president Yuri Titov has warned athletes against injecting growth hormones to enhance performance, a practice that is difficult to detect by urine anti-doping tests.

He said the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) medical commission was investigating possible cases of growth hormone doping.

"It is very dangerous for the future of gymnastics because the treatment upsets the growth hormone balance in every direction," he told AFP as the world gymnastics championships ended here Tuesday.

He said that injections of the substance, which is naturally produced in the body, could remove fat from tissues and boost muscular strength. "I am concerned about the use of additional growth hormone as a form of doping."

His comments appear to contradict the widely held view that gymnastics are, in

the words of FIG vice-president Jim Barry, "basically drug-free."

Mr. Barry said he could recall only one positive drug test at the past world championships. Last year, one gymnast took a cough remedy and tested positive for codeine, he added.

There have not been any drug cheats at the European championships for 10 years, said Michele Leglise, head of the FIG medical commission.

Toru Yamaji, a medical professor at Tokyo University, said Wednesday that the growth hormone has been produced through genetic engineering for clinical purposes.

It can create muscular bodies, said the hormone specialist. "It is difficult to detect traces of the hormone in urine samples because it dissolves in the body," he said.

The growth hormone has also been an issue in gymnastics for other reasons. Some mid-sized girl gymnasts are suspected of using such

drugs to delay puberty to enhance their acrobatic skills.

The charge has been repeatedly denied by FIG leaders who maintain that the sport is often taken up by people who are small by nature.

A report, issued by the FIG medical commission during the championships, said intense, top-level gymnastics would hold the growth hormone levels in young girls "significantly lower" than in others of similar age.

But it said the level would quickly recover when they took a break from the sport or quit it altogether.

The report was based on three-year tests of 30 biological substances in blood samples from 35 female gymnasts and a control group of non-active individuals, aged 12-15. The gymnasts train more than 20 hours a week.

The report said the survey had proved that top-level gymnastics does not influence "at the biological and somatic development of young gymnasts."

## Japanese climber missing in the Himalayas

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Japanese and two Frenchmen climbing Himalayan Mountains are missing, the government said Wednesday.

The latest person to go missing was a Japanese climber trying to scale Dhaulagiri-1. Two Frenchmen who tried to make a final assault on the Kanchenjunga peak, the third highest mountain in the world, have been missing since Thursday.

The tourism ministry, which monitors all expeditions in this landlocked country, said Hisayoshi Tawarayama, 54, of Tokyo was missing after he scaled the Himalayan peak with a Nepalese guide last Friday.

Tawarayama reached the summit at 15:50 local time (10:20 GMT), but was reported missing since 23:00 local time (17:30 GMT), the government said in a statement.

It was not immediately clear if the Nepalese guide returned to the lower camp. Three other expedition members who climbed the mountain, 8,167 metres high, have returned safely, it said.

## Indycar officials consider alternative to Indy 500

DETROIT (R) — Indycar tour officials said on Tuesday they are considering staging an alternative race to the classic Indianapolis 500 in May 1996.

Indycar officials called qualifying procedures announced by the Indy 500 a "lockout" because 25 starting spots would be granted to the rival Indy Racing League (IRL), organized by the Indianapolis motor speedway, leaving only eight non-IRL spots.

We have stressed on numerous occasions that our primary goal is to compete in the Indianapolis 500 in 1996," Indycar President and

Chief Executive Officer Andrew Craig said in a statement after a board meeting in Chicago on Monday.

"Under the present format, however, the Indycar board of directors cannot justify the expense and risk of a race in which the fastest 33 cars will not necessarily qualify."

Indycar said a committee would study an alternative event for the Indy 500 weekend.

The Indy Racing League, portrayed as a return to traditional Indycar racing is to have its first event next January 27 in Orlando, Florida.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
©1994 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### LUCKY DISASTER!

Neither vulnerable. East deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 9 5 3  
♥ Q 8 7 2  
♦ 8 7 5 4  
♣ J 4

WEST  
♠ 8 6  
♥ J 10 6 5 4 3  
♦ Q J 8 6  
♣ 10 7

#### SOUTH

♠ A 4 3  
♥ A K  
♦ A Q 10  
♣ A K 6 5 2

The bidding:

EAST 1♠ SOUTH 2♠ WEST 3♠ NORTH 3NT  
Pass Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

Bidding calamities can befall anyone. We remember well one in a major championship — a world-ranked pair lingered in two diamonds doubled and vulnerable with a singleton ace opposite a low doubleton — no great success. Once in a while, however, an accident in the auction can reap an unexpected reward.

cue-bid, creating a forcing-to-game situation. North interpreted the sequence as showing a good spade suit, hence the pass. To take that position without any proof that East was psyching would have been grounds for acquittal for any assault and battery charge that South might have committed against partner.

Not surprisingly, West led a trump, and the ten forced declarer's ace. Declarer decided that the contract stood no chance unless East held at least three clubs, so the ace and king of clubs were cashed and a third club was led. West discarded a diamond (ruffing would not help) and declarer ruffed.

A diamond to the queen won and another club was led, ruffed on the table when East pitched the jack of diamonds. Declarer finessed the ten of diamonds and, though West ruffed this trick, declarer still had to score a heart and the ace of diamonds for a total of eight tricks — one trump, one heart, two diamonds, two clubs and two club ruffs.

That was an absolute top on the board. At every other table North-South were in two no trump or higher, with declarer going down one or two tricks depending on the defense and level of the contract.

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## Promoter Don King's trial begins

NEW YORK (R) — Opening statements began after the jury was selected on Tuesday in the mail fraud trial of boxing promoter Don King at a New York federal court.

King has pleaded not guilty to charges of filing a fraudulent insurance claim after a 1991 title bout between Julio Cesar Chavez and Harold Brazier was cancelled.

The 12-person jury consists of nine women and three men. Four alternates — three women and a man — were also selected.

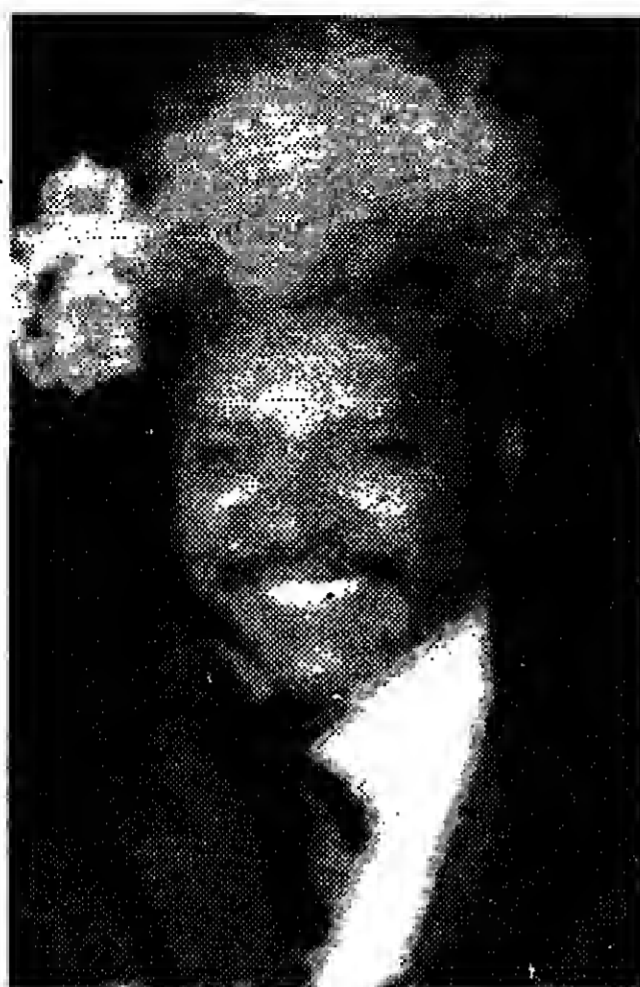
King filed a \$350,000 claim with Lloyds of London, the British based insurance giant, for what was termed "non-refundable training expenses" paid to Chavez, the world champion. King allegedly lied when he said the fees were not refundable.

If convicted, the 62-year-old King could receive up to five years in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines on each of the nine counts. King was sent to prison in the late 1960s after being convicted on manslaughter charges.

The Internal Revenue Service also is investigating allegations that King helped foreign fighters evade paying taxes in the United States and that King's promotional firm filed false tax statements.

The Justice Department has probed King's dealings for two years. The investigation began when King's former chief financial officer, Joseph Mafia, filed civil affidavits against King. Mafia agreed to cooperate with the Manhattan U.S. attorney's office.

King filed a counter complaint against Mafia with



Don King

New York's Board of Regents, which licenses accountants, blaming Mafia for any crimes that might have occurred. The board of Regents exonerated Mafia after an investigation.

In 1967, King was convicted of manslaughter for stomping Sam Garrett to death in Cleveland. King was

a bookmaker at the time and Garrett worked for him. King also killed a man in 1954, but the killing was ruled self-defence.

King also was indicted for tax evasion in 1985, but was acquitted. His secretary at the time, Constance Harper, was convicted and served a year in prison.

## Duncan Ferguson jailed for head-butt

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — Scotland and Everton striker Duncan Ferguson began serving a three-month jail sentence Wednesday for head-butting another player.

Ferguson, 23, becomes the first international player in British soccer to be jailed for an on-field incident.

A three-judge panel rejected Ferguson's appeal and ruled that a jail sentence was an appropriate punishment.

"We have reached the view we would not be justified in interfering with that sentence," the appeals court ruled after a 55-minute hearing. "In our opinion, in all the circumstances, the sentence of three months' imprisonment was intended to be an effective punishment and a deterrent to others. It cannot be described as excessive."

Ferguson showed no obvious emotion when the decision was announced.

"There is no further appeal," his lawyer, Blair Morgan, said. "That is it. That was the final appeal. I spoke to Duncan afterwards. He did not say very much. He had expected this to happen. He had expected the worst."

Peter Johnson, chairman of the Everton soccer club, attacked the sentence.

"I am very, very disappointed that a young man who has a job that is no danger to society has been sent to prison for something that went on a football pitch and at the time didn't attract any attention whatever," he said.

The jail sentence had been imposed in Glasgow in May. Ferguson was freed on bail pending Wednesday's appeal.

Ferguson, playing for Glasgow Rangers at the time, head-butted John McStay of Raith Rovers during a Scottish Premier Division match last April.

It was Ferguson's fourth conviction and was committed when he was on probation for a previous offence.

Ferguson's lawyer, John Mitchell, told the appeals court the player accepted his behaviour was wrong and that the sentence was "excessive" and amounted to a miscarriage of justice.

"He entirely accepts now he should never have behaved in the way he behaved at that time, and that he bitterly regrets having done so," Mitchell said. "He accepts such behaviour is unacceptable."

## 3 soccer stars, businessman charged with match fixing

SOUTHAMPTON, England (AP) — Three Premier League soccer stars and a Malaysian businessman appeared in court on match-fixing charges Wednesday in England's biggest corruption scandal in 30 years.

Southampton goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar, Wimbledon goalkeeper Hansi Senger, former Aston Villa striker John Fashanu and businessman Heng Suan Lim are accused of taking part in a conspiracy to rig the results of two Liverpool matches.

All four were released on conditional bail until Dec. 1.

They are charged with conspiring between Feb. 1, 1991, and March 15, 1995 "with others known and unknown, corruptly to give and corruptly to accept gifts of money as inducements improperly to influence the outcome of football matches or as rewards for having so done."

Grobbelaar, the former Liverpool goalkeeper, is charged with accepting £40,000 (\$63,000) from Fashanu in London on Nov. 25, 1993 for fixing the outcome of the Nov. 21 Newcastle-Liverpool game.

Liverpool lost 3-0.

Grobbelaar is also charged with accepting £2,000 (\$3,000) from his former Zimbabwean business partner Christopher Vincent on Nov. 3, 1994 at Southampton for improperly influencing the outcome of a football match or matches.

Senger, 33, Wimbledon's Dutch goalkeeper, is charged with receiving £19,000 (\$30,000) from Fashanu in London between Oct. 21, Oct. 25, 1994 to fix the outcome of the Oct. 22 Wimbledon-Liverpool match. Liverpool won 3-0.

Fashanu is charged with making the two payments.

The three players and the Malaysian businessman made their first appearance in Southampton magistrates'



Southampton's Bruce Grobbelaar (left) and Aston Villa's striker John Fashanu embrace as they arrive at the Magistrates court (Reuters photo)

court. They spoke only to give their name, age and address.

Outside the courthouse, Fashanu and Grobbelaar greeted each other warmly with a hug.

All four were bailed on condition they do not contact prosecution witnesses Vincent or John Troup, the Sun journalist who first reported the allegations.

Fashanu's wife, Melissa Kassa-Mapsi, 29, was originally arrested and charged with the four men, but the crown prosecution service has dropped charges against her.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of seven years in jail and/or an unspecified fine.

The accusations represent the biggest match-fixing scandal in English soccer since 1965, when three top flight

players were jailed for accepting money to rig results.

Grobbelaar and the others were arrested in dawn raids on their homes last March following a four-month investigation into alleged bribes involving an Asian gambling syndicate. They were charged with conspiracy on July 25.

Of the three players charged, Grobbelaar is the most prominent. He spent 13 seasons with Liverpool and helped the club win 13 titles, including five league championships and the European Champions Cup. He has also been a standout for Zimbabwe's national team and is considered a national hero in the African country.

Fashanu has retired from soccer after a series of injuries and is now a host of the popular television series "gladiators."

## Renovations raising ruckus in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Georgia (Agencies) — Two billion dollars worth of construction has made life difficult for citizens in the 1996 Olympic host city.

And officials here say the worst is yet to come with the centennial Summer Games still 40 weeks away.

"It's going to get a little worse before it gets better," city traffic planning overseer Sandra Jennings said.

"Believe it or not, most people seem to understand why all this is going on. They just want to know why they can't get where they want to go."

The reason is because workers are digging up the street or closing down car lanes to erect Olympic support facilities. Most of the work is within a 1.6 kilometre downtown area where the greatest number of Olympic events will be contested.

"We will work through this," organisers spokesman Dirk Yarbrough said. "The only way we can satisfy the great majority of the people is to put on a dynamite Games."

Polls have found support dwindling for the notion of the Olympics being a good idea for Atlanta as daily life has become more difficult. Add major highway construction and national attention for the Braves baseball team and the problems are clear as time ticks away before the world arrives.

"You know what it feels like?" asked lawyer Rick Asbill. "It's like when you are in college and you wait until the last minute to start cramming for the exam."

"It makes you think about renting your house and getting out of town."

Many are doing just that, with nearly Nashville making a vacation pitch to residents here to escape the Olympic mayhem. Some apartment dwellers are being forced to move out so landlords can rent at much higher rates during the Games.

"I was thinking of leaving

town anyway, but this just pushed me over the edge," computer analyst John Obermeier said.

In Lausanne, Switzerland, China's sports minister met Tuesday with IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch but there was no word on whether Beijing plans to bid for the 2004 games.

The International Olympic Committee said Samaranch met with Minister Shaoh Wu, who is also president of

China's National Olympic Committee. He Zhenliang, the IOC member from China, and China's world and Olympic table tennis head Deng Xiaping.

"Among the subjects discussed were the Chinese government's adoption of new laws on physical education and sport, with particular emphasis on anti-doping measures," the IOC said in a brief statement. "Mr. Wu also informed the IOC on the

Chinese athletes' preparations for the games of the XXVI Olympiad in Atlanta."

There was no mention of bidding for the 2004 Games. An IOC official close to Samaranch said the Chinese stressed the issue is a "political decision" that is in the hands of the Chinese government.

The deadline for submission of bids is Jan. 10.

Samaranch said two weeks ago it appeared unlikely Beij-

ing would make a bid. "I am not very optimistic," he said.

Beijing lost by two votes to Sydney, Australia, in the highly-charged race for the 2000 Games. Since then, Chinese officials have hedged on whether they would try again for 2004 or wait for 2008.

Ten cities have expressed interest in bidding for 2004, with Cape Town, South Africa, and Rome considered the early strongest contenders.



The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games announced the design and fabrication for the front of the gold, silver and bronze medals to be presented to the winning athletes at the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

The image depicts Victory holding a wreath over her head and carrying a flock of palm leaves on her arm with depictions of ancient Greece to complete the design (Reuters photo)

## Norwegian police expel, detain British soccer hooligans

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Police on Tuesday deported two Britons with records of soccer hooliganism and were holding 10 others they feared had come looking for trouble at a Norway-England soccer match in Oslo.

"The two were sent back

because they had earlier been punished for soccer violence," said Oystein Berger of the Oslo police. He said one of them was linked to the violent British neo-Nazi group Combat 18.

Wednesday's exhibition match in usually peaceful

Oslo will be the English national team's first away game since a match in Dublin, Ireland, last February. That game was abandoned after 27 minutes because of a riot by English fans which 30 were arrested.

England fears that more violence by its fans could jeopardise its hosting of the European soccer championships.

Norwegian police, working closely with British colleagues, were screening arrivals to Norway to prevent known hooligans from entering the country and reaching the sold-out Ullevaal Stadium in downtown Oslo.

"The situation in Oslo is very quiet. In Oslo we have not had problems," Mr. Berger told reporters outside Oslo's police.

About 400 regular English

fans have tickets, although as many as 300 more were expected to try to come without tickets. Police and immigration officials were questioning many of them at the airports, ferry terminals and border crossings.

Under Norway's strict immigration laws, police can refuse entry to anyone convicted of a crime abroad, or suspected of entering with the intent to commit crime.

But Mr. Berger conceded that it was impossible to check all 100 land crossings from Sweden or prevent Norwegians from selling tickets to English fans.

Nine Britons and a Dane were detained Monday night aboard a train from Sweden into Norway. Mr. Berger said they were being held at the Oslo police station while their identities and back-

grounds were checked. "I am quite sure that some of them will be sent back, but I don't know how many," he said.

The two sent home Tuesday were in a group of 10 arriving at Oslo's Fornebu Airport from Newcastle, England. Berger refused to say how police connected one of them to Combat 18.

Oslo's Verdens Gang newspaper said police found a black banner with the group's name and symbol, a human skull.

Two other English fans were arrested separately Monday night on charges of petty theft, he said.

Even under Norway's tough rules, police cannot detain or refuse entry simply because a visitor doesn't have a ticket to a soccer game, said Mr. Berger.

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The British Council GOETHE-INSTITUT AMMAN

# Jordan gearing up to attract foreign investments

By Edmund Blair  
MEED

FOR THREE days in mid-September Amman played host to some of the men and women who are credited with moving the world's financial markets. Delegates from 57 North American pension funds, representing some \$500,000 million under management, met in the Jordanian capital and were taken on a tour of Jordan's most promising manufacturing ventures, such as the electronics and household appliances factory of Middle East Industrial Complex (Goldstar) and El Zay Ready Wear Manufacturing.

The September conference attracted none of the media attention that will inevitably surround another meeting being held

in the Jordanian capital at the end of October: the Amman economic summit. The summit will be the international stage for Jordan to show the world how far it has come since the debt crisis of the late 1980s. It will be an opportunity to put up for scrutiny the raft of legislation the Jordanian Parliament has worked on recently to further open up the economy. Under the auspices of King Hussein, the October gathering will be attended by, among others, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Kozyrev and Shimon Peres, the foreign affairs minister of Israel. But all the ceremony of the summit will be for naught if investors like the group of foreign pension fund managers are not impressed by the govern-

ment's efforts.

During the past few months, ministers, parliamentary committees and the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament have worked hard to put together a package of measures that will reform the country's tax and investment codes and create a more attractive investment environment. The most important stage was achieved on Sept. 18, when the Upper House of Parliament approved the new investment law, paving the way for ratification by the King. The law will become effective in October.

## Incentives

The code provides incentives for investors in the form of tax exemptions, which are weighted in favour of less developed areas. An institution will be set up with the

task of encouraging investment and speeding up the process of registering and licensing new projects. The law also contains a commitment that all investment proposals will receive a reply from the higher council for investment, a body made up of ministers and business representatives, within 30 days of application.

"The law will promote efficiency and credibility," says Rajai Kossous, chief economist at Jordan Investment & Finance Bank. "If approval is not given then there are other processes to explain the motives. It will be more transparent."

The law also aims to ease the way for greater foreign investment, which mainly covers non-Arab investors. "The non-Jordanian investor will enjoy equal treatment under this law to the Jordanian investor," according to

article 24 of the law. A bylaw, which is due to be drawn up and passed by Parliament before the end of the year, will outline in detail any restrictions on the proportion of foreign ownership allowed, and is likely to include a 49 per cent cap on the foreign stake in indirect investment made in listed companies.

The same bylaw will also spell out a simplified mechanism for foreign investors to obtain permission to trade on the local stock exchange. The existing system, which involves each application passing through several tiers of authority including the prime minister's office, has proved a constant source of frustration to prospective investors. Under the new system, each application will require approval from the Amman Financial Market, a non-resident custodial account

with one of three local banks offering the service, and then the foreigner will be free to invest.

In addition to the investment law, a new tax code is still working its way through the legislature aimed at easing the tax burden on local companies. The corporate income tax ceiling will be lowered to 30 per cent, amounting to a 20 per cent reduction in some cases. The code will also include an increase in sales tax, which is expected to rise from the existing seven per cent to 10 per cent and is aimed to make up lost revenues from lower corporate returns.

A communications law has also been included in this batch of legislation and opens the way for greater participation of private finance in the economy. This was passed by the Lower House on Aug. 20 and allows the reorganisation

of the telecommunications sector, including privatising the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation.

For some foreign investors keen to invest in Jordan, this legislative action has come not a moment too soon. In fact, several foreign fund managers argue that Jordan's failure to act earlier has already left the country out of the first wave of investment which has already flowed into more open Arab markets during the past two or three years, including Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Oman.

A good illustration of the difficulties are those experienced by the Foreign & Colonial (F&C) Emerging Middle East Fund, which was set up in 1994 with the support of the International Finance Corporation. With capital of \$42 million dedicated to Mid-

(Continued on page 7)



**TASTING FREEDOM:** Palestinians released from Israeli prisons kiss the ground as they enter the Gaza Strip across the Nahal-Oz crossing. Israel freed nearly 900 prisoners this week as a part of the autonomy accord it signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington on Sept. 28. Nearly 5,000 Palestinians remain in Israeli jails (see page one) (AFP photo)

## 4 Americans, Dutchman win Nobels in chemistry, physics

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Four Americans and a Dutch scientist won Nobel Prizes Wednesday for research into the Earth's protective ozone layer and studies of sub-atomic particles.

The chemistry prize, for the ozone work, went to Mario Molina of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, F. Sherwood Rowland of the University of California-Irvine and Paul Crutzen of the Max-Planck Institute for Chemistry in Germany.

"Thanks to our good scientific understanding of the ozone problem — and very largely to Crutzen, Molina and Rowland — it has been possible to make far-reaching decisions on prohibiting the release of gases that destroy ozone," said the citation from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

Although ozone is considered a pollutant at ground level, it protects the Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays at high altitudes.

The physics prize went to Martin I. Perl of Stanford University and Frederick Reines of the University of California-Irvine for work in sub-atomic particles.

Dr. Perl and Dr. Reines discovered "two of nature's most remarkable sub-atomic particles" — the tau and the neutrino, their Nobel citation said.

In the mid-1970s, Dr. Perl discovered the tau, a heavier cousin of the electron. The tau is highly unstable and decays in other particles in less than a trillionth of a second.

The first tau particles were probably created in the big bang that started the universe, but they have long since disappeared. So Dr. Perl had to create tau particles in a particle accelerator to study them.

The discovery uncovered a family of sub-atomic particles that the Nobel citation said is crucial for current theories of how nature's smallest particles behave.

Dr. Perl called the award "unexpected" and said he hoped it will help convince people his current work involving quarks, another class of sub-atomic particles, is "not a waste of time."

The Nobel committee cited Dr. Reines, who worked with the late Clyde Cowan, for detecting the first neutrino, called the electron anti-neutrino, in work that started in the 1950s.

Dr. Reines is in a hospital, according to Myron Bander, former chairman of the physics department at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Bander declined to elaborate, but said the condition was not life-threatening.

Dr. Bander said Dr. Reines deserved the prize "for discovering this fundamental particle."

"This particle appears in all these radioactive decays. Now it has been used in astronomy and all sorts of other research. It is a key to our understanding of elementary particle physics."

Neutrinos stream out from the sun and star explosions called supernovas, making it possible to probe the innermost regions of stars. They

are produced along with energy, and to understand how stars and the sun produce energy "you need to understand neutrinos," said physicist Richard Steinberg of Drexel University in Philadelphia, who studies neutrinos.

Scientists are still debating whether neutrinos have mass. Neutrinos are extremely abundant, so if they have even a little mass they could help explain the so-called missing mass problem, which is that scientists have found far less mass than the universe appears to contain.

"We've known that Fred was worthy (of the Nobel Prize) since the '60s," Dr. Steinberg said. "It was just a question of which year it would be."

Americans have dominated the Nobel science prizes since World War II. More than one-third of the physics and chemistry laureates have been from the United States.

The winners of each Nobel will share \$1 million this year. They will be honoured during a ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the chemist who endowed the prizes with his fortune from inventing dynamite.

On Tuesday, American Robert E. Lucas Jr. of the University of Chicago won the Nobel Economics Prize. The Medicine winners Monday were Americans Edward Lewis and Eric Wieschaus, and German Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard.

Irish poet Seamus Heaney won the literature prize last week. The peace prize will be awarded Friday.

## 3 tenors announce first world tour

LONDON (R) — The three tenors — Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and Jose Carreras — announced plans Wednesday to stage their first world tour. Opera's biggest figures said they would come together before nearly 300,000 people in five concerts starting in mid-1996. The three men have previously ruled out a joint tour, citing scheduling problems. Opera buffs have suggested clashing egos were the real snag. The Italian and the two Spaniards will perform in Tokyo next June, London and New York in July, Munich in August and Melbourne, Australia, in March 1997. Tickets are expected to sell out in days. "We are all delighted to be reunited together once more for this tour. We are greatly looking forward to performing in five very different cities," the trio said in a statement before a joint news conference. Previous performances — a 1990 concert in Rome at the World Cup Soccer Finals and one in Los Angeles four years later — reaped millions in royalties and the live recording netted huge sales.

(Continued on page 7)

## Simpson to marry at Fiji resort — paper

SUVA (AFP) — Football legend O. J. Simpson is planning to marry at an exclusive island resort in Fiji, a newspaper reported here Wednesday. Simpson, acquitted of double murder in a controversial verdict in Los Angeles last week, would marry his girlfriend Paula Barbieri at the Sheraton Vomo resort in the Nadi area soon, the Fiji Times reported. Deonis McElrath, owner of the resort, could not be reached for comment on the report. A big wedding is to take place at the end of October, a hotel source told AFP, but refused to say who was to be married.

## Postman jailed for stealing birthday card cash

LONDON (AP) — A postman convicted of stealing money from children's birthday cards to support his heroin addiction was sentenced to nine months in prison. Steven Watson, 22, also stole a bundle of cards from his postal sorting office in Leeds, the prosecution said in Leeds Crown Court. "One can understand the upset and the heartbreak that you caused by pinching £5 (£3) and £10 (£16) out of some boys' and girls' birthday cards," said Judge Trevor Kent-Jone. Mr. Watson pleaded guilty to four charges of theft including postal orders, vouchers and jewelry. Prosecuting attorney Nadeem Basbir said mothers had complained of missing birthday cards. Mr. Watson was caught after postal officials placed three envelopes, each containing a heavy £1 coin, in Mr. Watson's sack, and only two were delivered.

## Liz Taylor undergoes surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor returned to the operating table to make her legs the same length, after hip-replacement operations in the past two years had left her with a limp. The 63-year-old actress underwent surgery Monday at Los Angeles' Century City Hospital. The 70-minute operation went well, her surgeon said.

## Beirut leaders agree to extend Hrawi's term, Assad reports

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's political leaders have agreed to extend President Elias Hrawi's six-year term which expires next month, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said in remarks published on Wednesday.

Mr. Assad's remarks, which angered exiled Christian Lebanese leaders, appeared to indicate that the thorny presidential issue has been resolved in favour of extending Mr. Hrawi's term rather than holding an election in November.

Syria's 35,000 troops in Lebanon make it the country's ultimate power broker and few political decisions are taken in Beirut before consulting with Damascus.

"In general, everybody was with the extension. All three, the president, Parliament Speaker (Nabih Berri) and Prime Minister (Rafik Al Hariri)," Mr. Assad told Egypt's Al Ahram newspaper in an interview published simultaneously by the Beirut daily Al Safir.

Government sources in Beirut say Syria prefers to stick with Mr. Hrawi as a known friend while it confronts serious regional problems and unfinished peace talks with Israel.

Opponents, particularly in the Christian minority who resent Syrian influence in Lebanon, see the proposal as a threat to democracy and say there are no exceptional circumstances that forbid holding regular presidential elections.

"Lebanon has become a Syrian colony in reality," Raymond Edde, a widely respected right-wing Christian and self-exiled head of National Bloc party, commented from Paris on Mr. Assad's declaration.

Former President Amin Gemayel, also exiled in Paris, said the statement showed the gap between Lebanon's leaders and the people "the majority of



Elias Hrawi

whom oppose extension and are now watching a painful but funny staged act that touches the homeland's sovereignty."

Under the constitution, Mr. Hrawi's term ends on Nov. 23 and parliament must elect a successor. As incumbent, Mr. Hrawi is barred from seeking a second term but moves have been underway for months for parliament to change the constitution to permit him a one-off three-year extension.

Beirut newspapers quoted Mr. Berri on Wednesday as saying parliament will back any government proposal, or a request from Mr. Hrawi, for extension.

"If the project to extend (Hrawi's term) comes from the government I will back up this request together with the deputies... parliament and its chief will help the adoption of this matter. This, we say, frankly," Mr. Berri said.

Last month Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Damascus "treasures" Mr. Hrawi's achievements as president and that Mr. Berri and Mr. Hariri, an ally of Mr. Hrawi, favour an extension.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Egyptian faces trial under new press law

CAIRO (AFP) — The editor of a Muslim fundamentalist newspaper is to become the first Egyptian journalist to face trial for defamation under a tough new law raising the maximum penalty to 15 years imprisonment. Magdi Hussein, editor of the bi-weekly Al Shaab, will appear in court in Cairo to face charges that he defamed the son of Egyptian Interior Minister General Hassan Al Alfi, legal sources said Wednesday. Mr. Hussein was questioned in August by an investigating magistrate after Mr. Alaa Hassan Al Alfi complained about a story which, without naming him, accused him of insulting the manager of a Cairo hotel, the sources said. The editor said he was not seeking to defame anybody but simply wanted the interior minister to inquire into the facts of the case. The trial date has not been fixed yet.

### Palestinian shot within hours of release

NABLUS (AFP) — A Palestinian activist was shot and seriously wounded in the West Bank town of Nablus on Wednesday less than 24 hours after his release from Israeli jail, Palestinian sources said. A group of young gunmen, saying they belonged to the Fateh Hawks, came to where Said Kalbuneh was staying on Tuesday after his release. They dragged him outside and shot the 25-year-old fellow Fateh activist at close range, the sources said. Mr. Kalbuneh, who spent two years in jail for anti-Israeli activities, was one of around 900 Palestinian prisoners released on Tuesday under the West Bank self-rule accord with Israel. It was the latest in a series of violent incidents between rivals in Nablus, from where Israeli troops are to be withdrawn before the end of 1995. Tension has mounted as self-rule nears for the town of 105,000 people. Another Fateh Hawk, Nail Shbita, was kidnapped on Sept. 10 and shot in the hand before being released.

### Iraq returns remains of alleged PoW

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq has returned the remains of a prisoner who allegedly died after his capture in Kuwait during the seven-month Iraqi occupation of the emirate, the national committee for the missing and the Prisoners of War (PoWs) said Wednesday. A committee official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press the remains of the prisoner were delivered a couple of months ago through the International Committee of the Red Cross. The government committee is in the process of verifying the remains by DNA testing in a number of Western countries, including the United States and Britain. He said Iraq has also given information on where two other prisoners allegedly were buried in Kuwait. The official would not provide any further details.

### Mentese protests Kurds' Nobel nomination

ANKARA (AP) — A Turkish cabinet member denounced the nomination of a jailed Kurdish politician for the Nobel Peace Prize, saying she might be prevented from receiving her prize if she won, a Turkish daily reported Wednesday. Leyla Zana, who was sentenced to a 15-year jail term on charges of Kurdish separatism, is considered one of the five leading candidates for the peace prize. Asked whether Ms. Zana would be able to receive the prize in prison, Interior Minister Nihat Mentese said, "I don't think so," the Turkish daily news reported. "But giving the award to someone who has not denounced terrorism, who is jailed for crimes related to terrorism, is murder," Mr. Mentese was quoted as saying. The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday. Ms. Zana, a member of the defunct pro-Kurdish Democracy Party, was imprisoned along with seven other Kurdish deputies in March 1994.

## Heavy fighting in Baidoa

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Fierce fighting erupted in the Somali town of Baidoa Wednesday, with witnesses reporting heavy civilian casualties.

The fighting was between local clan members and militia loyal to warlord Mohammed Farab Aided. At least 17 militiamen were reported killed and 28 wounded.

Earlier Osman Hassan Ali Ato, a rival of General Aided, said that his forces had won control of the key airport of Balidogle, between Baidoa and Mogadishu, from Gen. Aided's forces.

The airport fighting left at least two gunmen dead and nine wounded, Mr. Ato said.

It was the first major battle reported between the two factions since Mr. Ato split with Gen. Aided — accusing him of being a "warmonger" — as U.N. troops withdrew from this lawless Horn of Africa country last March.

The former air force airport, at Balidogle, 90 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu, lies between the capital and the town of Baidoa, which Gen. Aided captured on Sept. 17 at the head of a column of 600 men.

Witnesses said sporadic shooting was continuing in the area Wednesday and that Aided militiamen were regrouping 20 kilometres south of the airport awaiting reinforcements.

## Iraq is braced for vote over Saddam

BAGHDAD (R) — School pupils chanted "Yes, yes to Saddam" and loudspeakers blared songs praising the Iraqi leader on Wednesday in preparation for an Oct. 15 presidential vote in which Saddam Hussein is the sole candidate.

Organisers say more than seven million Iraqis are eligible to say either "Yes" or "No" but are certain President Saddam will be approved. Only the north of the country, an autonomous area outside Baghdad's control, will not take part.

The election furore is an important display of President Saddam's grip on power after the embarrassing Aug. 8 defections to Jordan of two sons-in-law, one of which ran Iraq's weapons industry.

The defections prompted speculation in the West that President Saddam's rule was collapsing. But predictions of his imminent fall proved unfounded and the Iraqi government clearly wants its numerous enemies to know this.

Iraq said more than 600 foreign reporters had arrived in Baghdad at the government's invitation and would be given free access to observe the referendum.

However, an official newspaper criticised the influx of reporters, saying Iraq did not need their words.

"Is Iraq in need of the testimonies of Western democracies?" the government newspaper Al Jumhuriya asked in a commentary.

"Jumhuriya accused 'some Western reporters' of what it described as 'premeditated and ready-made judgments'."

State television and radio ran special programmes. Streets and public buildings in Baghdad are decorated with placards. Saddam pictures and signs reading "Yes, yes to Saddam Hussein."

Tribal chiefs with kinsmen from the province of Nineveh were shown dancing on state television on Tuesday, some brandishing banners, swearing allegiance to President Saddam.

School buildings, used as polling centres, are festooned with ribbons and placards. State-radio and television run interviews with Iraqi intellectuals, politicians and journalists saying Iraq's future hinged on a unanimous "Yes" for President Saddam.

President Saddam has not addressed the nation since the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) unanimously renominated him for the presidency in September.

Iraqi sources said President Saddam will deliver an address to the National Assembly (parliament) shortly after his election in which he could announce new political guidelines for the nation.

The Oct. 15 vote comes after amendments to Iraq's interim constitution announced by the RCC a month ago that included a provision to elect the president through secret ballot.